



Landscaping & Grounds Care

IN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Landscaping is a common feature in industrial areas, and typically involves maintaining beds of trees, shrubs, ground covers and/or flowers. Once installed, landscaping beds are maintained seasonally to renovate, mulch, weed, and prune; pick up leaves and trash; inspect and repair irrigation systems; and apply fertilizers and pesticides, as needed. A well-designed and maintained landscaping bed absorbs rainfall, produces little runoff and discharges few pollutants.

However, landscaping can be a source of stormwater pollutants at many

sites, particularly if it drains to adjacent impervious areas. Poor landscaping practices can generate organic wastes, excess irrigation water, nutrients, pesticides, organic carbon, and sediment loads to the storm drain system.

Most landscaping maintenance is performed by contractors or in-house maintenance crews. Improved practices are generally adopted by educating, training, and certifying workers and supervisors within the landscaping and lawn care industry.



Dumped grass clippings may clog the storm drain inlet.



Pollution prevention opportunities include:

- Collect landscape waste and dispose at a local municipal yard waste recycling/composting facility.
- Cover exposed beds and soils with mulch to minimize erosion and runoff.
- Use manual and/or mechanical methods to remove weeds rather than herbicides.
- Select a reputable landscaping company that uses native plants, organic fertilizers and natural pest management techniques.
- Never apply fertilizers or pesticides within 2 metres of pavement, 8 metres of a storm drain inlet, or 16 metres of a stream or water body.
- Do not use leaf blowers to blow waste into streets, storm drains, or ditches.
- Sweep up any organic matter from paved surfaces after landscaping operations.
- Develop and implement an integrated pest management plan that uses pesticides only as a last resort.
- Apply pesticides when rain is not expected and when wind speeds are low.
- Use the minimum amount needed for the job, employ techniques to curtail spray drift of pesticides and never mix or prepare pesticides within 8 meters of storm drains.
- Consider a low or no pesticide approach to maintain landscaping areas.
- Employ shutoff devices to prevent irrigation after precipitation or if a pressure drop occurs due to broken sprinkler heads or lines.
- Design irrigation systems specific to each landscaped area's water requirements and make irrigation plans consistent with local water conservation resolutions.
- Select native plant species whenever possible and group together plants with similar water requirements in order to reduce excess irrigation.
- If you use a service provider, add language to protect water quality in the maintenance contract.