



## Outdoor Storage

### IN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

**M**any businesses store materials or products outdoors. The risk of stormwater pollution is greatest for operations that store large quantities of liquids or bulk materials at sites that are connected to the storm drain system.

Protecting outdoor storage areas is a simple and effective pollution prevention practice. The underlying concept is to prevent runoff contamination by avoiding contact between outdoor materials and rainfall (or runoff). Unprotected outdoor

storage areas can generate a wide range of stormwater pollutants, such as sediment, nutrients, toxic materials, and oil and grease.

Materials can be protected by installing covers, secondary containment, and other structures to prevent accidental release. Outdoor storage areas can be protected on a temporary basis (tarps or plastic sheeting) or permanently through structural containment measures (such as roofs, buildings, or concrete berms).



Outdoor storage areas that drain into the storm drains.

### Pollution prevention opportunities include:

- Emphasize employee education regarding storage area maintenance.
- Keep an up-to-date inventory of materials stored outdoors, and try to minimize them.
- Store liquids in designated areas on an impervious surface with secondary containment.
- Inspect outdoor storage containers regularly to ensure that they are in good condition.
- Minimize stormwater run-on by enclosing storage areas or building a berm around them.
- Slope containment areas to a drain with a positive control (lock, valve, or plug) that leads to the sanitary sewer (if permitted) or to a holding tank.
- Schedule regular pumping of holding tanks containing stormwater collected from secondary containment areas.
- Ensure all containers are properly sealed or covered, such as lids on drums and small containers.
- If you use a service provider, add language to protect water quality in the maintenance contract.