

Retail & Gas Stations

The following information provides Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for companies that grow and sell plants and conduct other landscaping activities.

POTENTIAL POLLUTANT SOURCES

The following activities are potential sources of pollutants:

- Fueling
- Air/water supplying areas
- Dumpster and trash can areas

Pollutants may include:

- Heavy metals (copper, lead, nickel, and zinc)
- Hydrocarbons (oil and grease, PAHs)
- Toxic chemicals (benzene, toluene, xylene)
- Trash

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Using pollution prevention measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures.

The following pollution prevention principles apply to most facilities:

- Use alternative, safer, non-toxic, and/or recycled products;
- Reduce storm water flow across the site and redirect flows away from storm drains, gutters, and streets;
- Reduce the use of water and/or use dry methods (i.e., sweeping).
- Provide on-going employee training.

GENERAL GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PROCEDURES

- If water is being used for cleaning outdoor areas, contain the wash water. A permit is required to dispose of wash water in the sanitary sewer (call Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25 at (281) 277-0129 for disposal approval). Never discharge wash water into storm drains, gutters or streets.
- Maintain facility and move/cover activities/materials to prevent contact with storm water.
- Inspect and clean leaks and drips routinely.
- Label drains within the facility boundary to indicate whether they flow to an oil/water separator, directly to the sewer, or to a storm drain.

- Inspect/clean, storm drain inlets within the facility boundary before October 1 each year.

FUELING

- Maintain fuel dispensing areas using dry cleanup methods such as sweeping for removal of litter and debris, or use of rags and absorbents for leaks and spills.
- Fueling areas should never be washed down unless the wash water is collected and contained. A permit is required to discharge waste water in the sanitary sewer. Do not discharge waste to the sanitary sewer until contacting Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25 to determine if pretreatment is required.
- Fit fuel dispensing nozzles with "hold-open latches" (automatic shutoffs) except where prohibited by local fire departments.
- Cover the fuel dispensing area such that the cover's minimum dimensions are equal to or greater than the area within the grade break or fuel dispensing area. Position roof downspouts to direct water away from fueling areas.
- Construct berms around the perimeter of the fuel dispensing area to prevent the run-on of uncontaminated storm water from adjacent areas as well as storm water runoff.
- Slope the pavement near the fuel dispensing areas to prevent ponding.
- Post signs at the fuel dispenser or fuel island warning vehicle owners/operators against "topping off" of vehicle fuel tanks.
- Install protective guards around tanks and piping to prevent vehicle damage and spills.

DUMPSTER AND TRASH CAN AREAS

Minimize the possibility of storm water pollution from outside waste receptacles by doing the following:

- Use only water-tight waste receptacle(s) and keep the lid(s) closed;
- Grade and pave the waste receptacle area to prevent run-on of storm water;
- Install a roof over the waste receptacle area;
- Install low-containment berms around the waste receptacle area; and
- Empty waste receptacles frequently.

SPILL CLEANUP

- Develop and maintain a spill response plan.
- Place an adequate stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily available.
- Spot clean leaks and drips routinely. Use absorbent to remove leaks and drips, and dispose of absorbent properly.
- Clean leaks, drips, and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
- Keep the spill from entering streets, gutters, or storm drains.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Train employees on these practices.
- Train staff on the proper maintenance of your facility.
- Train employees on proper spill containment and cleanup procedures.
- Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.
- Use a training log or similar method to document training.

Sources:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (www.tceq.state.tx.us)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)