



CITY OF COLUMBIA STORMWATER FACT SHEET



According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the primary cause of water quality problems today is not from factories or wastewater treatment plants, but rather from something called “non-point source pollution.” Non-point source pollution is runoff from rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation. As it flows into drainage ditches, gutters, and storm drains, it picks up products of our everyday activities – oil and gasoline, pet wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, wash water, even soil and yard clippings – and eventually deposits them into our streams and lakes. These pollutants can kill aquatic life, limit the use of our waters for recreational and other purposes, and create unsightly conditions.

To specifically address the problem of non-point source pollution, the City of Columbia has developed non-point source pollution controls aimed at making our waterways more “fishable, swimmable, and environmentally safe.” The state of Tennessee, under the direction of our nation’s Clean Water Act, has issued the City of Columbia a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit. This permit makes us responsible for improving and protecting the quality of water allowed to enter “Waters of the State.” This means that the City must reduce pollutants in the stormwater system owned or operated by the City that discharges water to area streams and rivers; otherwise the City will be in violation of the permit. The City has developed a Storm Water Quality Management Program as a guide to citizens, which includes the following practices and procedures that are supplemental to the requirements of the permit.

Where does your water drain?



Stormwater contact numbers

Contact **Engineering Department** via phone at **931-560-1530** or e-mail **dmorris@columbiatn.com** for any of the following reasons:

- ☛ To report a “new” drainage-related complaint
- ☛ To inquire on the status of previously reported drainage-related complaint
- ☛ To report a stormwater/water quality complaint (such as dumping into a catch basin or creek, etc.)
- ☛ To inquire whether a property is in the floodplain
- ☛ To inquire about the status of a grading permit application

Minimizing StormWater Pollution:

What You Can Do

Around the house

- Use household cleaners that are labeled nontoxic and biodegradable, and use the smallest quantity possible.
- Properly use and store all toxic products, including cleaners, solvents, and paints. Clean up spills immediately. Follow label directions regarding container disposal or take to a local collection site.
- Recycle reusable materials, and dispose of litter into trash cans that are tightly covered.
- Dispose of paint in an environmentally friendly manner. The State of Tennessee has an annual day for Hazardous Material Disposal. The State will make public announcements to let you know this date.



Around the yard

- Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers sparingly and in accordance with label instructions. Do not apply if rain is expected or near ditches, gutters, or storm drains. Use products labeled nontoxic, biodegradable, or water-soluble when possible.
- “Go natural” by using natural fertilizers such as compost or bone meal and natural insect repellents, such as marigolds (for nematodes and white flies), soapy water from dishes (for flowers and roses), or spearmint gum (for moles).
- Do not over irrigate – this can cause sediment to wash into storm drains.
- Do not blow, sweep, or rake leaves or grass clippings into gutters or storm drains. Compost yard waste or bag and dispose using solid waste collection programs.
- Divert rainspouts and garden hoses from paved surfaces onto grass.
- Pick up animal wastes and dispose of in garbage cans or by flushing down toilets.



Vehicle and boat-related activities

- Take used motor oil and filters to a participating oil recycling center. Following is a list of centers:
 - Advance Auto Parts – 931-381-4908
 - Advance Auto Parts – 931-388-5539
 - Autozone ----- 931-381-1235
 - TSC ----- 931-380-2801
 - Wal-Mart ----- 931-388-0355
- Properly maintain your car or boat to reduce leakage of oil and other fluids.
- Wash cars on lawns or ground rather than paved surfaces to minimize runoff, and use biodegradable, non-phosphate soap.
- Use marine sanitation devices or pump-out facilities to get rid of boat sewage.
- When spills occur, use kitty litter, sawdust, or wood chips to soak up fluid and dispose in garbage can.

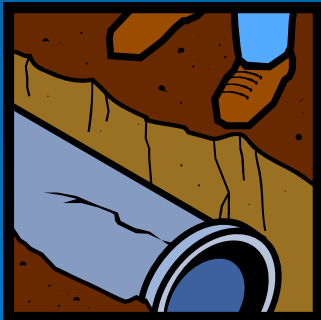
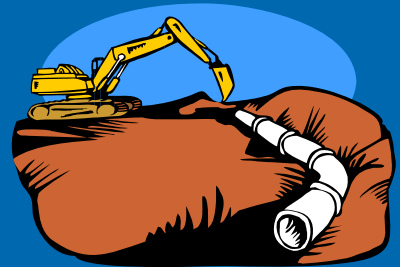


New Grading plan issuance process

As a result of the issuance of the NPDES permit, the following procedure will be implemented for all grading permit applications received on or after July 31, 2003:

1. Grading permit application must be submitted, indicating the name of the certified Erosion Protection and Sediment Control (EPSC) specialist designated for the site (Certification via completion of TDEC EPSC Class).
2. Plans review will be performed by City personnel certified in EPSC and tentative approval
3. Pre-construction meeting will be scheduled/held with representatives from City of Columbia Engineering, Codes, etc., and applicant
4. Applicant will be notified that Grading Permit is tentatively approved pending proper EPSC installation (Barring unforeseen circumstances, this letter will be provided at the pre-construction meeting to facilitate the process).
5. EPSC measures must be properly installed on site as per plans.
6. After installation of EPSC measures, notify City Engineering Department that inspection can occur.
7. Certified City personnel will inspect site for proper EPSC installation.
8. If site passes inspection, Grading Permit is issued by City.

In addition to the City of Columbia's new Grading Permit requirements, certain land disturbance activities that will impact "Waters of the State", "Wetlands", and/or "Sinkholes" may be required to meet certain State and Federal regulations. All such applicable regulations must be met prior to initiation of land disturbing activities. This includes the receipt of any necessary permits.



Further information on additional regulations that may pertain to your activities may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Columbia Environmental Assistance Center at 931-380-3371, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District-Regulatory Branch at 1-615-736-5181.

For more information on requirements of the NPDES permit, or to obtain a copy of the recently implemented City of Columbia Storm Water Quality Management Program, call City of Columbia Engineering Department at 931-560-1530.