



## COMMON POLLUTANTS

### Landscape Maintenance

- Fertilizer
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Heavy Metals (copper, lead, and zinc)
- Hydrocarbons (gasoline, diesel, oil and grease)
- Sediments
- Yard Waste

### TRAINING

- Annually train employees on proper housekeeping, non-stormwater discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.
- Teach employees to use natural GRASSCYCLING to fertilize, initially cut grass at a height of 1-inch and leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. Follow the "1/3 Rule, moving often enough so no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is cut in any one mowing.

To learn more about Green Gardening and Water Conservation, visit the Monterey Bay Friendly Landscaping Website:

<https://green-gardener.org/>



### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Many people and businesses don't realize their landscape practices can impact our local streams, creeks, river or ocean with pollution. This guide provides general Best Management Practices (BMPs) for landscaping business operations. The BMPs are not limited to those presented in this handout. Additional resources are listed for a more extensive array of BMPs available.

Landscape maintenance activities can generate a significant amount of pollutants such as nutrients, pesticides, herbicides heavy metals, gasoline diesel, oil, grease and sediment.

When it rains pollutants are picked up by stormwater runoff and transported to the nearest storm drain inlet and into our local streams, creeks, rivers and ocean. You can help reduce water pollution by implementing the following approaches:

- Implement an integrated pest management (IPM) program using biological, cultural, physical and non-toxic chemical tools to manage weeds and pests.
- Plant drought-tolerant plants in a natural / xeriscape to reduce water and pesticide use.
- Keep material stockpiles and chemicals covered and away from storm drain inlets and out of the street.
- Have spill cleanup materials readily available and use dry methods to clean-up spills.
- Store, handle and dispose of chemicals and/or spill cleanup materials properly

**Did you know?** Even cleaning products labeled "non-toxic" and "biodegradable" are not safe. "Non-toxic" means the product is not toxic to the user. "Biodegradable" means the product will eventually break down. These products are still harmful to wildlife and the environment.

### EVALUATE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- Use non-chemical solutions where possible such as amending soils with compost, hand weeding and use of native and climate appropriate (drought resistant) plants.
- Reduce the amount of water, pesticides and fertilizers and replace them with "Green" chemical treatments.
- Adjust irrigation with weather patterns, use and convert to "smart-controllers whenever possible.
- Ensure sprinklers are not directed to hardscape/concrete.



### PROPERLY MANAGE IRRIGATION AND RUNOFF

- Time and locate irrigation heads to minimize run-off.
- Minimize irrigation run-off by using an evapotranspiration-based irrigation schedule and rain sensors.
- Avoid over-watering landscape areas not only to conserve water but to avoid runoff of water, which may carry fertilizers, nutrients and pesticides into the creek, river and eventually to the ocean.
- Use a hose nozzle to control the amount of water you use or set irrigation systems to reflect your City water conservation requirements. Regularly inspect irrigation system for leaks.

### USE MULCH OR OTHER EROSION CONTROL MEASURES

- Mulch, wood chips and other cover material prevent soil erosion and prevent rapid evaporation of water.
- For areas around trees and shrubs, be sure to have 3-4 inches of mulch in place to reduce evaporation and build healthy soil.
- Try composting leaves, grass clipping or pruning waste for reuse in your garden as a soil condition.





## Part II

### NEED MULCH

Free Mulch is readily available throughout the County. Visit the LSalinas Valley Recycling Center for location of Free Mulch Piles:

<https://svswa.org/salinas-valley-recycling-and-disposal-facilities/johnson-canyon-landfill/>

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

#### Take Advantage of the following FREE services:

- Download or print BMP materials from our website

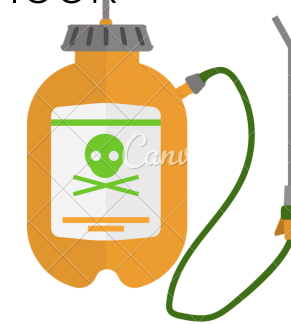
#### Be sure to always check:

- Local landscape ordinances periodically;
- Drought restrictions; and
- Business License requirements for the City where you are operating your landscape service.



### PROPERLY MANAGE PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE AND FERTILIZER USE

- The label on a pesticide container is a legal document. Use pesticide as instructed only.
- Select a pesticide specifically for the pest to be controlled.
- Identify the specific problem or pest by taking a sample to your local nursery, local Agricultural Commissioner's Office or contacting the Master Gardener Program.
- Use mechanical methods of removing pests first. This may reduce or eliminate the need for chemical treatments.
- Apply ready-to-use non-aerosol pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer products instead of mixing you own from concentrates.
- Consider alternative management methods such as pest-resistant plants; sealing entryways, removing food sources, eliminating nesting sites and using bait, etc. and look for less toxic methods for pesticide control.



### PROPERLY HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL OF CHEMICALS

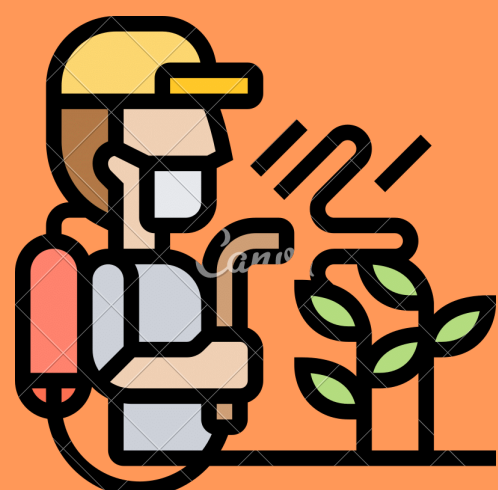
- Mix or use only what you need.
- Make sure to handle and store chemicals properly in accordance to the products Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and ensure storage areas are designed to contain spills.
- When it comes to chemical treatments, more is not better – Spot treat in areas that do not exceed two square feet whenever possible. Avoid overspray or off-target applications.
- Do not apply pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers during irrigation or within 48 hours of predicted rainfall.
- Do not apply pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers if wind speeds are above 5 mph.
- Fill gasoline, diesel, oil and grease cautiously and always use a funnel and/or spout to prevent spilling or splashing when fueling equipment.
- Be prepared to handle spills. Keep a spill kit nearby containing personal protective equipment and absorbent materials (sand, kitty litter or sawdust). Cover spills with absorbent materials and put contaminated material into a sealed plastic bag or bucket with lid and dispose of it as hazardous waste.
- Don't dump these chemicals down drains, sinks, sewers, gutters, or onto soil. Dispose of unwanted chemicals via the local household hazardous waste collection event (Residents) or a state approved hazardous waste contractor (Business).

**Did you know?** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard has adopted the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) approach to classify chemicals and communicate hazard information on labels and SDS. For more information about the GHS, visit OSHA's website <http://www.osha.gov>

### CLEANUP AND DISPOSAL OF LANDSCAPE WASTE

Conduct dismantling/crushing operations indoors within a bermed area and/or outside within a designed area that is paved, covered, and bermed.

- Consider installing a fluid collection system under dismantling/crushing operations.
- Place a drip pan under a leaking vehicle, parts, and equipment to capture leaking fluids or store under cover in plastic storage boxes when possible.
- Prevent spills by not leaving drip pans outside, exposed to rainfall, or left unattended. Transfer drained fluids into waste containers located in a secure area with lids closed when not in use. Make sure to keep the area tidy and clean up spills promptly.



# The Landscaper's Guide Best Management Practices (BMPs)

## Part III

**ONLY RAIN DOWN THE  
STORM DRAIN**



### **CLEANUP AND DISPOSAL OF LANDSCAPE WASTE (continued)**

- Be sure to cover burned vehicles, parts, and equipment if stored outside to prevent exposure to rainwater.
- Keep vehicle hoods down when not in use. If the vehicle has no hood, use a cover or tarp to prevent exposure to rain.

### **REGULATIONS, REGISTRATION AND REPORTING**

- Comply with the California Code of Regulations Section 6970 Surface Water Protection in Outdoor Nonagricultural Settings.
- Use a Qualified Applicator Certificate with Category Q or Category B, or a Qualified Applicator License with Category B to supervise pesticide use.
- Obtain a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).
- Record the types and amounts of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used.



