

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains flow directly to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

The primary purpose of the storm sewer system is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding.

Stormwater pollution comes from a variety of sources, including grease spills, dirt, debris, automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides, and other hazardous materials.

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollution entering waterways.



Smart Salting

Stormwater can carry salt used to clear snow and ice from sidewalks and parking lots. Salt helps keep surfaces free from ice but can have a negative effect on the environment. You can help reduce the amount of salt used by following smart salting strategies, which will save money as well as reduce damage to infrastructure, vehicles, plants and water supplies.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are procedures used to help prevent pollutants from entering into the storm sewer system.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

- The more snow and ice removed by shoveling, the less salt you will have to use.
- 15 degrees F is too cold for salt. Most salt stops working at this temperature. While sand does not melt ice, it provides traction.
- Apply less. More salt does not mean more melting. Be patient; these products take time to work.
- Use less than 4 pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee cup.
- Use a handheld spreader to help you apply a consistent amount.
- Sweep up extra salt and sand if visible on dry pavement. It is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Use it somewhere else or properly dispose of it.
- For more salting tips visit the MPCA website.

ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN

Identify and locate storm drains near your business where pollutants could flow. Let everyone know that the storm drain flows to the Red River by placing a stencil. Contact Fargo-Moorhead River Keepers for more information on the Storm Drain Marking Program. If a storm drain is on your private property, check it frequently and clean any debris from the grate. If your private storm drain is clogged, hire a professional to remove the debris.

Illicit Discharge to the Storm Sewer

Immediately report spills that have entered the storm sewer system to the Stormwater staff at 218.299.5386. For hazardous spills contact the Moorhead Fire Department @ 218.299.5432

For more information or to report an illegal discharge, please call 218.299.5386