

# LANDSCAPING MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY

## Stormwater Best Management Practices



**ONLY RAIN  
BELONGS  
DOWN THE  
DRAIN!**

Protect Our  
Waterways & Prevent  
Urban Landscaping  
Waste From Entering  
Storm Drains



Stormwater runoff is simply rainwater that does not soak into the ground, but runs off hard surfaces like paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks and rooftops. As stormwater travels, it can pick up pollutants along the way. This stormwater pollution enters our waterways and can be detrimental to water quality and aquatic life. The storm drainage system in Lowell is a network of storm drain inlets and underground pipes that carry stormwater from our streets directly to our streams. Some of the current methods of maintaining urban landscaping, including over watering, over fertilizing and planting invasive species have caused harm to our waterways.

For this reason, it is important to understand the ways in which the landscape management industry can help aid in keeping our waterways clean through the following Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are methods or activities that may help prevent stormwater pollution.

The quality of our waters depends on your actions. We can work together to protect our local water quality and comply with local, regional, and state regulations!

**Report Spills or Stormwater Pollution to the city's  
Stormwater Administrator at 704-824-3518**

**For more information, visit:**

**<http://lowellinc.com/248/Stormwater-Management>**



**REGIONAL  
STORMWATER  
PARTNERSHIP  
OF THE CAROLINAS**



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### WATERING

- Avoid watering near impervious surfaces such as roads and sidewalks.
- If possible, limit irrigation to twice per week in the summer and once per week in the winter. This will stimulate a deep root system in plants and increase drought resistance requiring less water.
- Check sprinklers at least once a month to ensure sprinkler heads are properly working and not over or under watering.



### APPLYING PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZER

- Never use more pesticides and fertilizers than needed. Always follow label instructions.
- Avoid applying applications before a forecasted rain event.
- To capture spills, use a tarp under the spreader when filling or emptying.
- Sweep up fertilizer that settles on paved areas instead of hosing it off.

### MAINTENANCE AND DISPOSAL

- Sweep or blow grass clippings from paved areas into grassy areas or landscaped areas or gather and place into yard waste bags.
- Dispose of organic wastes by composting whenever possible.
- Check labels for details on proper disposal of any excess, expired or waste pesticides and fertilizers. Never pour down the storm drain.
  - Never sweep or blow grass clippings or leaves into the street or storm drain or near a stream.



### GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Always first consider beneficial organisms and biological control before other methods.
- Use manual or mechanical methods for weed/pest control rather than chemical methods. When chemical methods are required, use the least toxic or most biodegradable substance whenever possible.



### PREVENTATIVE ACTION

- Regularly inspect, maintain and calibrate all pesticide and fertilizer application equipment to ensure proper application rate.
- Make sure all employees are properly trained and follow regulations regarding "no spray zones".
- Make sure all pesticide application equipment is capable of immediate shut-off in the event of an emergency or spill.



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