

# Reducing Runoff for Commercial & Industrial Businesses

## 1 Consider Mapping Storm Drains

- Map the storm drains in your property and possible routes through which on-site contaminated runoff can get discharged into the nearby streams.
- Share the map with employees and operation crew on-site and highlight the storm system connected to your property and the runoff routes.
- Provide educational training to staff regarding stormwater runoff pollution and encourage them to implement best management practices.



## 2 Maintain the Premises

- Maintain routine cleanups on your property by keeping open areas free of industrial waste, garbage, and litter. Dispose of trash and floatable debris in appropriate disposal bins.



## 3 Maintain the Buffer Zone Year-Round

- Refrain from clearing out any vegetation (grass, shrubs, trees) on the banks of the rivers and streams close to the property.
- Avoid stacking industrial materials and snowbanks in winter close to a stream. Use containment techniques to reduce exposure of materials to rain and snowmelt which will help mitigate industrial contaminants getting into the nearby rivers and streams.



## 4 Consider Low Impact Development

- Consider implementing systems to collect and treat contaminated stormwater. Low Impact Development (LID) practices in commercial and industrial properties have gained popularity in many places globally. These practices help prevent urban stormwater runoff and reduce pollution in our water bodies. Some examples are Rain Gardens, Bioswales, and Vegetated Buffer Strips.



## 5 Be Aware of Contaminants

- Activities conducted outdoors on the property, such as loading/unloading, storage, equipment and vehicle maintenance, equipment washing, salt application, etc., can be general sources of stormwater pollution since these involve common pollutants (oil and grease, garbage, heavy metals, salt, sediment, etc.).
- Identify common pollutants in daily activities and implement practices to prevent these contaminants from getting washed into water bodies.



## 6 Divert Pollutants from the River

- For example, if equipment involving oil and grease is stored outside, implement a diversion ditch that will collect surface flow and lead to a stormwater retention system instead of going to the storm drain directly.
- Consider consulting with the respective municipal department to find ways to reduce industrial runoff from entering our beloved river systems.

