



Litter Management

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices

NPDES MS4 Permit Measure: Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts

Subcategory: Education for Business Community (Adapted from EPA-832-0320)

What Businesses Can Do To Reduce Litter

Businesses can be part of the solution to help reduce litter and prevent other potential pollutants from entering local streams, storm drain systems, and waterways. Clean surroundings and local waterways are important to your community's quality of life, good for business, improve the customer experience, and can raise property values. As a business owner or manager, we recognize you and your staff already play any important role in providing a healthy and positive customer experience. This fact sheet provides information and guidance your business may use to assess and promote effective litter management for your site with positive impact on water quality in your community's local streams and regional waterways.

Top 10 Types of Litter in Maryland

(Sources: Ocean Conservancy 2021 Report, CC Environmental Advisory Council "LitterLess - Resource Guide for Carroll County Residents")

1. Plastic bottle caps
2. Plastic beverage bottles
3. Food wrappers
4. Straws and stirrers
5. Cigarette butts
6. Aluminum beverage cans
7. Glass beverage bottles
8. Metal bottle caps
9. Plastic grocery bags
10. Other trash



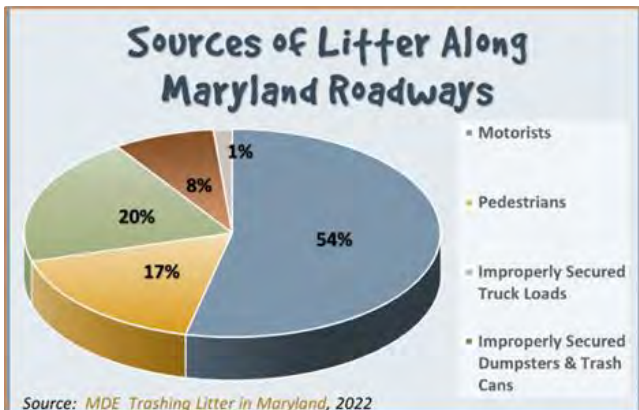
Storm drain inlets are often collection points where grass clippings, leaves and litter can cause flooding and convey materials to waterways. Be sure to keep clean of debris for stormwater flow!

Why is Litter Management Important?



In many communities, litter has the potential to become a significant pollutant. Accidental or improper disposal can cause trash to blow overland and collect in waterways or be washed into storm drain systems, where large amounts can

concentrate in small areas. Trash can become litter when it accidentally falls out of trash bins, vehicles, dumpsters, garbage trucks, or when improperly discarded. Litter mars the aesthetics of a landscape and poses threats to waterways, wildlife and human health. For example, litter can be a choking hazard for wildlife or cause bacterial contamination from items such as food wrappers or discarded cleaning wipes. When litter clogs storm drain inlets, pipes, and stormwater management ponds, it can cause flooding and damage infrastructure. Plastic litter can also break down into microplastics, which are challenging to remove from the environment and can be potentially toxic when consumed.



Good Housekeeping Practices

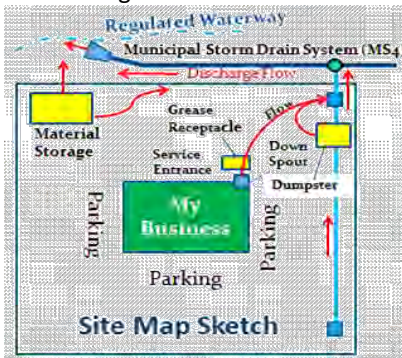
Employ these Good Housekeeping Practices to help prevent litter and other potential pollutants from entering nearby waterways.

Three Simple Steps for Effective Litter Management

Businesses can take three simple steps to prevent pollutants such as litter from entering local waterways.



1. **Evaluate your site.** Using a plan sketch or aerial photo, walk your site and note the general direction of flow for stormwater runoff. Also identify inlets, curb openings, outfalls, stormwater facilities and waterways. Note the general wind direction.



2. **Identify any potential litter sources.** Note specific areas where litter tends to collect on-site or may routinely blow off-site, and determine the major types such as bottle caps, etc. Check nearby stormwater infrastructure (inlets, outfalls, etc.), ditches, streams, and waterways. Identify potential litter sources, such as trash receptacles, dumpsters, outdoor eating areas, storage sheds, and loading/unloading areas. Identify specific activities with potential to cause litter or other pollutants such as grease receptacles, fueling stations, drive through, and car cleaning areas.

Sample Business Activities	Common Pollutants					
	Bacteria	Erosion & Debris	Excess Nutrients	Heavy Metals	Oil & Grease	Toxic Chemicals
Engine Maintenance & Repair		✓		✓	✓	✓
Food Service & Production	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Gas Stations		✓		✓	✓	✓
Washing Vehicles, Equipment, etc.	✓	✓			✓	✓
Waste Handling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Landscaping		✓	✓	✓		✓
Parking Lots, Sidewalks, Paved Areas	✓	✓	✓			✓

Source: Adapted from Clean Water Partners: Make it your business to reduce water pollution and flooding. Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc., <http://www.delawareestuary.org/>, September 8, 2015.

3. **Take action.** If you have any areas that can improve litter management, put together a simple checklist of Good Housekeeping practices from the menu provided. Determine a schedule if needed, educate your staff, and begin implementation with your team. Follow up periodically with self inspections and make adjustments as needed.

Good Housekeeping Practices for Litter Management

- Provide customers and employees with an adequate number of trash, recycling, and cigarette receptacles in convenient locations.
- Check and collect trash from receptacles before overflowing. Ensure loose items on the ground are picked up and bags are sealed.
- If trash receptacles have lids, keep them secure.
- Keep dumpster lids and side doors closed. Regularly inspect waste management area for loose trash. Require trash haulers to pick up litter that falls out during transfer.
- After mowing, blow grass clippings onto lawn areas.
- Sweep sidewalks and high traffic areas periodically to remove debris. Sweep outside around front and back doors to control debris, cigarette butts, and loose litter. Dispose of materials in the garbage. Do not dispose of any materials in a storm drain.
- Regularly check on-site stormwater inlets and facilities for litter or improper dumping of liquids such as automotive fluids, or wastewater, consider labeling on-site storm drain inlets to remind everyone that only rain should enter storm drain systems.
- Use customer friendly signage to help direct customers to use good housekeeping measures.
- Provide training to employees. Make staff aware that litter management is everyone's responsibility not only as a good business practice but also as a stormwater pollution prevention measure to help protect local waterways and improve water quality.
- Perform regular on-site visual inspection for litter along the perimeter and neighboring properties. Look for windblown or improperly discarded trash, and safely collect if able or coordinate as needed. Look for opportunities to improve.

For more information, help, or guidance contact:



Carroll County Bureau of Resource Management
 225 N. Center Street, MD 21157
 Phone: 410-386-2210

Or your municipality:

Hampstead	410-374-2761	Manchester	410-239-3200
Mount Airy	410-795-6012	New Windsor	410-635-6575
Sykesville	410-795-8959	Taneytown	410-751-1100
Union Bridge	410-775-2711	Westminster	410-848-9000

For general information about stormwater pollution prevention, visit the "Protecting Carroll County Waters" : webpage at:

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/planning-land-management/protecting-carroll-county-waters-mpdes/>