

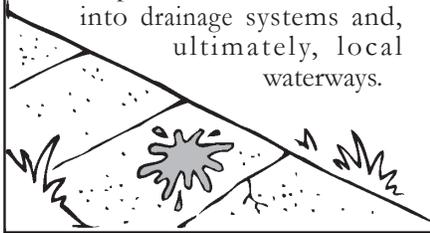


Maintaining Paved Areas

Why be concerned?

Accumulated trash, road salts, vehicle fluids and other pollutants can be washed off pavement and into drainage systems, increasing maintenance costs and pollution downstream.

Cleaning and other maintenance activities can cause dislodged pollutants, as well as acids and other products to be washed into drainage systems and, ultimately, local waterways.



Clean and Leak-Free Equipment and Vehicles

Properly maintaining equipment and vehicles will prevent oil, grit, fluids and other pollutants from being deposited onto the ground. Proper vehicle maintenance will also extend the life of asphalt, since fuels cause it to deteriorate.

Cleaning Up Paved Areas

Any trash or residue on surfaces that drain to the stormwater management system will ultimately be washed into local rivers and streams.

- Routinely clean up debris in outside areas. Pay special attention to parking lots, loading docks, waste storage areas, drain inlets and the area around stockpiles.
- Regularly remove any fluids that accumulate on pavement. (If possible, use absorbent materials that can be reused or recycled.)

Pavement cleaning schedules will depend upon use and the materials being stored, transported or handled. If possible, clean outside areas before heavy rains are forecasted. Remove trash and debris in the early spring and in the fall, when trees shed their leaves. Leaves are a pollutant if large quantities enter surface waters.

“Dry Cleaning”

Washing paved areas can cause dislodged debris, vehicle fluids and other pollutants to be carried into drainage systems with wash water. Sweep and use other dry methods to clean pavement instead of wet washing. Be sure to pick up and dispose of the accumulated materials properly. If you aren't sure how to dispose of solid materials, call your trash hauler for direction.

If it is necessary to wash a paved area, remove as much residue and debris as possible before applying water. Protect storm drain inlets with filter fabric to filter out solids.

Pressure washing: turn down the volume

Avoid pressure washing, as well as the use of acids and other harsh cleaners. If you must pressure wash, follow the recommendations in Series #4, Fact Sheet 4.1.



Using and Disposing of Maintenance Products

When purchasing deicers, cleaners, curing agents, paints or other products, select the least hazardous option for each situation. Ask your vendor for less toxic options to the products you currently use or contact one of the agencies listed under “Getting Help.”

Never direct unused products or waste water onto the pavement or down a storm drain!

For more information about managing wastes, see Series #7. For information about using deicing materials, see Series #4, Fact Sheet 4.4.

Marking Storm Drains

Locate storm drains and mark them or apply decals with the message “No Dumping-Drains to Creek.” This will let employees know that dumping wastes down these drains is not permitted.



A Concrete Solution

Concrete and other cement-related mortars that enter a drainage system can cover fish spawning areas and can also be ingested by fish and other aquatic life. In addition to environmental impacts, the cost of cleaning and reopening drains that are clogged by concrete will be assessed to the responsible party.

Don't wash fresh concrete onto a surface that drains to a storm drain or stream:

- Let unused concrete harden and dispose of it with construction debris.
- Wash shutes, vehicles, wheelbarrows and other equipment in an area that will hold wash water until the concrete settles out. After the concrete hardens, it can then be collected and disposed of with your construction debris.

•If contractors are hired to perform occasional maintenance work, encourage them to implement practices recommended by Community Partners for Healthy Streams whenever possible.

• If equipment wash water must enter a storm drain, protect the drain inlet with a fabric bag to filter concrete deposits. The bag and its contents can then be disposed of as construction material. For more information about filter fabric bags, call Cobb County Community Development, Erosion and Sediment Control.

Take care when constructing concrete aggregate driveways. Filter fine sediment out of runoff by washing it to the side, not down the driveway. If the driveway is sloped, place straw bales at the bottom or divert the flow to a depression where the sediment can collect and be removed later.

Encouraging Contractors to Protect Water Quality

If contractors are hired to perform occasional maintenance work, require them to implement practices compliant with State and local regulations.

GETTING HELP

- Cobb County Community Development - Erosion & Sediment Control(770) 528-2190
- Cobb County Stormwater Management..(770) 419-6435
Water Quality Section(770) 419-6441
- Community Partners for Healthy Streams(770) 528-1482
- Cobb County Storm Drain Marking Program.... (770) 528-8214