

## **1. Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**

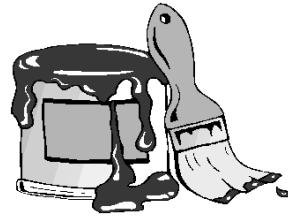
Household toxins – such as common household cleaners, paint products and motor oil – can pollute our streams, as well as groundwater, if not disposed of as hazardous waste.

- ◇ Minimize your use of hazardous chemicals by using safe and effective non-toxic substances. Buy the least toxic products available such as those labeled “non-toxic”, “non-petroleum based” and “free of ammonia, phosphates, dye or perfume.”
- ◇ Store your unused household chemicals securely and dispose at periodically announced Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Call (931) 528-3884 for more information.
- ◇ Take used motor oil to an oil recycling center.

## **2. Concrete and Masonry**

Fresh concrete and mortar application materials can wash down or blow into the street, gutter or storm drains posing a hazard to aquatic life. Also, these materials could clog the storm drain system causing flooding to you and your neighbors.

- ◇ Do not mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use.
- ◇ Store bags of cement and plaster under cover protected from rainfall, runoff and wind and away from gutters and storm drains.
- ◇ Never dispose of cement washout or con-



## **3. Painting**

All paints and solvents contain chemicals that are harmful to aquatic life. Toxic chemicals can come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues on rags. It is especially important to prevent these chemicals from entering storm drains.

### **Paint Cleanup**

- ◇ Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter or storm drain.
- ◇ For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the maximum extent possible. Clean with thinner and then filter and reuse thinner.
- ◇ For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the maximum extent possible, then wash in a sink that drains to the sanitary sewer.
- ◇ When thoroughly dry, used brushes, empty cans (lids off), rags and drop cloths may be disposed of as trash.

### **Paint Removal**

- ◇ Chemical paint stripping residue is a hazardous waste and should be taken to the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.
- ◇ Sweep paint chips and dust and dispose of in trash.

### **Paint Recycling**

- ◇ Use leftover paint for touch-ups or dispose of it at a Household Hazardous

## **4. Landscaping & Gardening**

Intensive gardening and landscaping increase the likelihood that garden chemicals and soil will wash into storm drains. Pesticides and herbicides will not only kill garden invaders, they also harm beneficial insects, poison fish and contaminate ground and surface water.

- ◇ Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers and pesticides. Do not fertilize or use pesticides near ditches, gutters or storm drains.
- ◇ Store pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- ◇ Do not blow, sweep or rake leaves or grass clippings into gutters, ditches or storm drains. In addition to polluting our water, they could plug the drainage ways and cause flooding for you and your neighbors.
- ◇ Cookeville has curbside brush and leaf pickup. Call (931) 520-5201 to request a pickup. Or compost the clippings at home and use the compost around your plants.



## **5. Construction**

Sediment from excavation and other construction projects is the most common pollutant washed from work sites. Sediment entering the river through storm drains harms aquatic life and disrupts the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.

### **General Practices**

- ◇ Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drain. Look for and clean up material that may have traveled away from your property.
- ◇ Keep materials out of rain by storing them indoors or outdoors with a secure roof or plastic sheeting.

### **Erosion Control**

- ◇ Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- ◇ Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt, sand etc. with plastic tarps.
- ◇ Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.
- ◇ Obtain an [Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook](#) from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This handbook provides detailed examples of

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Clean Water: Our Only Choice

**Cookeville** has two drainage systems – the sanitary sewers and the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets, homes, and businesses. Because the system contains no filters, it also serves the unintended function of carrying urban pollution straight into our streams and the underground aquifers through sinkholes.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent pollution from entering our streams and sinkholes from “stormwater” or “urban runoff”.

Rain water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automobile fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows through the storm drain system that takes water and debris straight from the streets to our streams and sinkholes. Each day tremendous amounts of polluted urban runoff enters our streams untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our creeks and aquifers.

Urban runoff contaminates our streams and aquifers, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging our storm drains and catch basins. Overall, stormwater pollution costs us millions of dollars per year.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner streams and rivers, and a cleaner Cookeville.

For more information please visit our website at:

### Spill Response

Cookeville Fire Department  
911  
Tennessee Division of Water  
Pollution Control  
(931) 432-4015

### Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Putnam County Recycling Center  
(931) 528-3884

### To Report Illegal Dumping

Cookeville Codes Dept.  
(931) 520-5233  
Cookeville Stormwater Management  
(931) 520-5249

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

#### Detention Pond Maintenance

#### Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities

#### Automotive Maintenance & Car Care

#### Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control

This pamphlet was produced by Cookeville Stormwater Management. For more information please call (931) 520-5249.

Stormwater  
**MATTERS!**  
City of Cookeville  
City of Cookeville—Stormwater Management  
45 E. Broad Street  
Cookeville, TN 38503

## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)



## Home Repair & Remodeling

Brochure 6

**Homeowners**  
**Do-It-Yourself Remodelers**  
**Do-It-Yourself Painters**  
**Do-It-Yourself Landscapers**