

## COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Keeping lawns and gardens looking good isn't always good for our environment. Sprinkler runoff carries pesticides and fertilizers into the storm drain system. Leaves, grass clippings and yard waste get swept or blown into the street, along with sediment from erosion, clogging catch basins and polluting waterways.



### Yard waste:

- Recycle leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste, instead of blowing, sweeping or hosing them into the street or gutter.
- Let your customers know about grasscycling. Let grass clippings drop on the lawn, instead of using a grass catcher. The clippings act as a natural fertilizer, returning nutrients and organic matter back to the soil, and because grass is mostly water, it also irrigates lawns, conserving water. Reducing the need to water as often or use toxic fertilizers means less contaminated runoff.

### Erosion prevention:

- Prevent erosion and sediment runoff by using berms and vegetation down-slope to capture runoff. Cover exposed piles or bags of soil, groundcover and other materials with plastic sheeting to prevent it from blowing or washing into the storm drain system.

### Pesticides and fertilizers:

- Spot apply pesticides, rather than blanketing entire areas.
  - Ask your customers if they prefer nontoxic alternatives to traditional pesticides and fertilizers.
- Do not put pesticides or fertilizers in the trash. Dispose of hazardous materials through a hazardous waste hauler or take them to a household hazardous waste collection site to be recycled.

### Wise water use:

- Control the amount of water and direction of sprinklers, to avoid waste and runoff. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.

## Important Telephone Numbers

Police/Fire Emergency	911
DPW Main office	508-695-9621
Police non emergency	508-695-1212
Fire non emergency	508-699-4424
Town Hall	508-699-0100



Town of  
**North Attleborough**  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Serving North Attleborough ~ Protecting the Environment

49 Whiting Street  
Telephone: (508) 695-9621  
Public Works Online  
[www.north-attleboro.ma.us](http://www.north-attleboro.ma.us)

## Town of North Attleborough



BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**STORMWATER  
for LOCAL BUSINESSES**

Tel: 508-695-9621

## STORMWATER for LOCAL BUSINESSES

One of the most common types of pollution from businesses is contaminated water runoff, usually from cleaning and maintenance activities. Simple best management practices (BMPs) can prevent stormwater pollution, and prevention is good business. It means clean water, clean beaches and shows your customers you care about the community.

### RESTAURANTS:

Food waste, grease, cleaning solvents, mop water and trash from restaurant operations often make their way into the storm drain system, polluting local waterways.

#### **Cleaning:**

- Clean floor mats, filters and garbage cans in a mop sink, floor drain or proper outside area, not the parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.
- Pour washwater into a janitorial or mop sink, not outside in the parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street. Use non-toxic cleaning products.

#### **Grease & hazardous materials:**

- Recycle grease and oil, instead of pouring it into sinks, floor drains or into a parking lot or the street.
- Dispose of all unwanted tactic materials like cleaning products through a hazardous waste hauler. These items are not trash.



#### **Spills:**

- Use dry methods for spill cleanup, by sweeping and using cat litter instead of hosing. Have spill containment and cleanup kits available for possible spills on your property. To report serious toxic spills, call 911.

#### **Outside maintenance:**

- Keep dumpster lids closed and the areas around them clean. Do not fill with liquid waste or hose them out. Call your trash hauler to replace any dumpsters that leak. Sweep outside areas regularly and put the debris in the garbage, instead of sweeping or hosing it into the parking lot or the street.

### AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES:

Motor oil, anti-freeze, grease and other toxic fluids from auto repair and gas station operations often make their way into the storm drain system, and flow untreated into local waterways.

#### **Preventing leaks and managing spills:**

- Use drip pans to catch leaks when pouring and draining fluids.
- Prevent leaks from stored vehicles by draining gas, hydraulic oil and transmission, brake and radiator fluids.
- In case of a hazardous spill, follow your hazardous materials response plan as filed with your local fire department or other hazardous materials authority.

#### **Storing and disposing of hazardous materials:**

- Keep liquid wastes segregated. Many fluids can be recycled through hazardous waste disposal companies, as long as they are not mixed.
- Store hazardous materials under cover or inside, to prevent leaks and spills.



#### **Cleaning and maintenance:**

- Use dry methods, by sweeping and using absorbent cleaning agents, to clean work areas, instead of hosing them down.
- Sweep outside areas regularly and put the debris in the garbage, instead of sweeping or hosing it into the street. Keep dumpster lids closed and the areas around them clean. Do not fill with liquid waste or hose them out. Call your trash hauler to replace any dumpsters that leak.

#### **Washing vehicles:**

- Wash vehicles at a washing facility that reclaims water. If washed at your business, use berms or sweep to keep contaminated wash water from flowing into the street. Use nontoxic detergents and cleaners.

### CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Soil, cement wash, asphalt and oil from construction sites often make their way into the storm drain system, and flow untreated into local waterways.

#### **Erosion prevention:**

- Reduce erosion by avoiding excavation or grading activities during wet weather, and by planting temporary vegetation on slopes where construction is not immediately planned. Use berms and diversion dikes to contain runoff.

#### **Concrete and mortar application:**

- Prevent mortar and cement from entering storm drains by placing erosion controls such as berms or temporary vegetation down-slope to capture runoff.
- Wash concrete mixers and equipment only in specified wash-out areas, where the water flows into containment ponds. Cement wash water can be recycled by pumping it back into cement mixers for reuse. Never dispose of cement washout into driveways, streets, gutters or drainage ditches.

#### **Handling materials and waste:**

- Cover exposed piles or bags of soil, cement and other construction materials with plastic sheeting to prevent it from blowing or washing into the storm drain system.
- Recycle broken asphalt, concrete, wood and cleared vegetation.
- Store hazardous materials under cover or inside, to prevent leaks and spills. Dispose of hazardous materials through a hazardous waste hauler or other means in accordance with the construction permit.

#### **Managing spills:**

In case of a hazardous spill, follow your hazardous materials response plan as filed with your local fire department or other hazardous materials authority.

#### **Equipment maintenance:**

- Inspect vehicles and equipment frequently for leaks.
  - Perform major equipment repairs and washing off site.
- Use gravel approaches where truck traffic is frequent to reduce soil compaction and limit the tracking of sediment into the streets.



WHEN IT COMES TO  
**WATER** MAKE IT YOUR  
**BUSINESS**