

**Storm Water Pollution Prevention  
Clean Water: Our Only Choice**

The City of Bartlett has two drainage systems – the 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 eventually the Mississippi River.

This pamphlet provides examples of how you can reduce or eliminate pollution from entering our streams from “storm water” or “urban runoff”.

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

Urban runoff pollution eventually flows to the Mississippi River through the storm drain system that takes water and debris straight from the streets to our streams. Each day tremendous amounts of polluted urban runoff enters our streams untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our creeks and rivers and tons of trash along their banks.

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

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will help reduce storm water runoff pollution and ensure cleaner streams and river, and a cleaner City of Bartlett. For more storm water information, call the Storm Water Coordinator, 385-6499.

For more information please visit our website at:  
<http://www.cityofbartlett.org> or  
<http://tn.gov/environment/water.shtml>

**Hazardous Spill Response**

City of Bartlett Fire Dept  
911 or (901) 385-5555

**Recycling and Household Hazardous  
Waste Disposal**

Memphis and Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (901) 222-7729

**To Report Illegal Dumping**

City of Bartlett  
(901) 385-5555

**To Report a Drainage Problem**

Department of Public Works  
(901) 385-5570

**Storm Water Program Information**

Department of Engineering and Utilities  
(901) 385-6499

**Mosquito Control**

Memphis & Shelby County Health and Sanitation Dept.  
(901) 222-2300

Material printed by City of Bartlett  
Department of Engineering and Utilities



This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm water pollution prevention measures. Other pamphlets can be obtained from the Department of Engineering and Utilities and include:

- Food Service Industry**
- Automotive Maintenance & Car Care**
- Detention Basin Maintenance**
- Home Repair & Remodeling**
- Heavy Equipment & Earth Moving Activities**

City of Bartlett Storm Water Management Division  
6382 Stage Road  
Bartlett TN 38134-3739  
(901) 385-6499

**Storm Water  
Best Management  
Practices  
(BMPs)**



**Landscaping,  
Gardening &  
Pest Control**

**Brochure 1**

**Homeowners  
Gardeners  
Landscapers**

## Problems

Landscaping and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to storm water pollution. Soils, yard wastes, over watering, and garden chemicals become part of the urban runoff mix that winds its way through streets, gutters and storm drains before entering our river tributaries.

For example, mud and silt from construction or tilling of a garden, as well as, poorly protected stockpiles can enter a stream, which covers eggs of aquatic animals and fills in the habitat.

Poorly functioning sprinklers and over watering wastes water, and increases the amount of pollutants that flow into storm drains.

Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are washed off lawns and landscaped areas. These chemicals not only kill garden pests, they also harm useful insects, poison fish and contaminate ground and surface water. Some fertilizers can cause huge increases in algae growth in rivers.

Leaves, grass clippings and tree trimmings that are swept or blown into the street and gutter also cause storm water pollution. These wastes clog catch basins, increasing the risk of flooding on your street. These materials also release excess nutrients as they decompose which can lead to more algae growth in rivers..

## Solutions

### 1. General Landscaping Tips

- ◇ Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- ◇ Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- ◇ Use temporary check dams or ditches to divert runoff away from storm drains.
- ◇ Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses.

### 2. Garden and Lawn Maintenance

- ◇ Do not over water. Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems.
- ◇ The City of Bartlett Public Works Department has yard waste pick-up. Call 385-5570 for more information on pick-up options. Or, compost the clippings at home and use the compost around your plants.
- ◇ Do not blow or rake leaves into the street, gutter or storm drains.
- ◇ Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers.
- ◇ Do not over fertilize and do not fertilize near ditches, streams, or other water bodies.
- ◇ Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- ◇ Sweep excess materials off driveways, sidewalks and other hard surfaces into yards.

### 3. Pesticide Alternatives

The “chemicals-only” approach to pest control is only a temporary fix.

A more common sense approach is needed for a long-term solution. It’s called:

#### *Integrated Pest Management*

Plan your “IPM” strategy in this order:

#### A) Physical controls

- ◇ Caulking holes
- ◇ Barriers
- ◇ Hand picking
- ◇ Traps

#### B) Biological Controls

- ◇ Predatory Insects (e.g. Green lacewings and lady bugs eat aphids and dragonflies eat midges and mosquitoes)
- ◇ Bacterial insecticides (e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis* kills caterpillars.)

### C) Chemical Controls – Your Last Resort

Use these least toxic products:

- ◇ Dehydrated dusts (e.g. silica gel)
- ◇ Insecticidal soaps
- ◇ Boric acid powder
- ◇ Horticultural oils
- ◇ Pyrethrum-based insecticides

Remember to apply chemicals when there is no forecast for rain and follow label directions.

### 4. Safe Substitutes for Pest Control

#### Garden Aphids and Mites-

Mix 1 tablespoon of liquid soap and 1 cup of vegetable oil. Add 1 teaspoon of the mixture to a cup of water and spray. (Oil may harm vegetable plants in the cabbage family).

#### Caterpillars-

When caterpillars are eating, apply products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* to leaves.

#### Ants-

Place boric acid dust or hydramethylnon baits in problem areas, cracks and insect walkways. Be sure it is inaccessible to children and pets (it is a mild poison).

#### Roaches-

Apply boric acid dust to cracks and entry points (see ants above). Place bay leaves on pantry shelves.



### 5. If You Must Use Pesticides...

- ◇ Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control your pest. The insect should be listed on the label. Approximately 90% of the insects on your lawn and garden are not harmful.
- ◇ Read labels! Use only as directed. In their zeal to control the problem, many gardeners use pesticides at over 20 times the rate farmers do.

### 6. Pesticide Disposal

- ◇ Household toxins – such as pesticides, cleaners, and motor oil – can pollute our streams and rivers and poison groundwater if disposed of in storm drains or gutters.
- ◇ Rinse empty pesticide containers and use rinse water as you would the product. Dispose of empty rinsed containers in the trash.
- ◇ Shelby County residents can take unused household toxins to the Memphis-Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 6305 Haley Rd., between 8:30 am and 1:00 pm, Tuesdays and Saturdays. Call 222-7729 for more information.