



Potential Environmental Impacts

Many facilities have parking lots and outside loading or storage areas. Stormwater runoff from these areas can carry pollutants such as oils, solvents, and heavy metals directly into streams or other surface waters, killing aquatic life and polluting areas where people swim, fish and boat. Some activities that are potential sources of stormwater runoff pollution include:

- Compactor and dumpster leakage,
- Open topped dumpsters,
- Truck loading docks: spillage, pavement drains,
- Shop floor washwater directed outside,
- Internal floor drains or trenches connected to storm drains,
- Outdoor storage including machines, parts, drums or other containers, and
- Building roof run-off with an accumulation of condensate from dry cleaning equipment.



Stormwater runoff discharging into a stream

Legal Requirements

- ◆ The CT DEP has developed general permits to cover the discharge of stormwater runoff. [CGS Section 22a-430]
 - A garment care facility must register under the *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Facilities* if the facility has 5 acres or more of contiguous impervious surface (including roofs, paved parking, roadways and sidewalks).
- ◆ If your facility does not fall under the category mentioned above, best management practices must still be used to help prevent pollutants from reaching the groundwater or surface waters.
- ◆ A stormwater discharge means the discharge of precipitation runoff from any conveyance, such as a pipe, ditch, channel, or swale that is used for collecting and conveying stormwater from areas related to the commercial or industrial activities at the site. [CGS Section 22a-430]
- ◆ Any interior floor drains that connect to storm sewers, ground, groundwater, or surface water and do not have a permit are illegal in Connecticut [CGS Section 22a-430]. (See the Shop Wastewater fact sheet for more information.)

For more information about the stormwater requirements, call the CT DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (860) 424-3018 or visit the "Permits, Licenses, and Registrations" section of the CT DEP website at www.dep.state.ct.us/pao/download.htm#WaterGP.

Best Management Practices

- ★ Clean up spills immediately. Have spill kits with absorbent materials and brooms, shovels, or scoops readily available.
- ★ Store drums, machines or parts in a way that avoids exposure to rain or snow. This can include storing indoors, under a permanent roof on an impervious surface, in leak-proof covered containers or under temporary cover (like tarps).
- ★ Keep dumpsters covered or position them in a roofed area. Make sure their drain plugs are intact.
- ★ Position downspouts so that runoff is directed to vegetated areas. Avoid draining to concrete or asphalt.



Covered dumpster with intact plugs

Pollution Prevention Checklist

- ✓ Do you store drums, machines or parts indoors or under cover?

YES

NO

N/A

- ✓ Do you have spill kits readily available?

YES

NO

N/A



Did You Know?

Pollutants carried in storm drainage systems now make up between 50% and 90% of all pollutants reaching Connecticut's surface waters.

2004 Garment Care Fact Sheets

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Office of Pollution Prevention (860) 424-3297 www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/garcare/gcindex.htm
Fact Sheet: DEP-P2-GARMENT-CARE-FS-007

Last Updated: September 2004