

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains flow directly to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

The primary purpose of the storm sewer system is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding.

Stormwater pollution comes from a variety of sources, including grease spills, dirt, debris, automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides, and other hazardous materials.

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollution entering waterways.



Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG)

Stormwater can carry fats, oil, and grease from restaurants, kitchen grease traps, tallow bins, and used oil storage tanks to our local waterways. Oil and grease float on the surface of the water blocking sunlight and oxygen needed by aquatic life. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are procedures used to help prevent pollutants from entering into the storm sewer system.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

- Never pour grease into a sink, floor drain, storm drain or dumpster.
- Keep spill kits in places where they are easily accessible.
- Areas around grease storage containers should never be cleaned with a hose or pressure washer. Use absorbent pads or other non-free-flowing material to cleanup spills around outdoor containers.
- Keep tallow bins closed when not in use.
- Storage containers should be covered, inspected for leaks and kept in good condition.

ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN

Identify and locate storm drains near your business where pollutants could flow. Let everyone know that the storm drain flows to the Red River by placing a stencil. Contact Fargo-Moorhead River Keepers for more information on the Storm Drain Marking Program. If a storm drain is on your private property, check it frequently and clean any debris from the grate. If your private storm drain is clogged, hire a professional to remove the debris.

SPILLS

If an accidental spill occurs, immediately use a rag, mop, or an absorbent and containment materials to prevent oil and grease from entering the storm sewer system. Keep cleanup kits in places where they are easily accessible. Immediately report spills that have entered the storm sewer system to the Stormwater staff at 218.299.5386. For hazardous spills contact the Moorhead Fire Department.

For more information or to report an illegal discharge, please call 218.299.5386