

# Good housekeeping has an impact

especially when it comes to the responsible management of common chemicals — the kinds found at many municipal facilities and worksites.

The failure to properly handle, store or dispose of hazardous materials can result in harmful pollutants ending up in local waterways. Proper management of hazardous materials can significantly reduce pollution runoff.

The most common pollutants that result from municipal operations are:

- Sediment
- Oils and grease
- Nutrients, including fertilizers
- Trash
- Metals
- Bacteria
- Organics
- Pesticides
- Oxygen demanding substances
- Degreasers and solvents
- Oil-based paints
- Hydraulic fluids
- Antifreeze
- Salt
- Fuels



## Additional Resources

Visit the **Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)** website listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other pollution reduction strategies.



### Contact Information:

For information about Green Country Stormwater Alliance, contact INCOG at 918-584-7526 or by email at [stormwater@incog.org](mailto:stormwater@incog.org). For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

For more information about stormwater protection, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100 or visit the DEQ web site at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/stormwater/>

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24-7. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints/> and submit it electronically to DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

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## Handling & Disposal of Chemicals at Municipal Sites



## A Closer Look at

# Proper Chemical Handling & Disposal



### Chemical Management Basics

Best management practices (BMPs) used for the storage and handling of chemicals will help minimize volumes of wastes generated.

Some Basic BMPs include keeping work areas clean, disposing of wastes properly, maintaining machinery, inspecting facilities regularly, and training employees to respond to spills.

Scheduled inspections will help with storage and disposal of harmful chemicals and help the facility meet state and federal HAZMAT rules.

State and federal rules on the handling of chemicals in the workplace are complex. They cover the generation, transport and disposal of wastes; the storage and use of materials at facilities; and worker safety in handling chemicals.

Internet Resources (good starting points):

**OSHA:**  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3084.html>

**RCRA:** <https://www.epa.gov/rcra>

**USTs:** <http://occeweb.com/ps/aboutpst1.html>

**SDS (was MSDS):**  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3514.html>

### Tips for Chemical Handling

How chemicals and hazardous substances are handled can affect the amount of pollution in stormwater runoff.

- Ensure that all employees who handle chemicals are properly trained.
- Use chemicals only as directed.
- Ensure that all chemical containers are labeled and stored properly.
- Follow all recommended procedures when preparing chemicals.
- Do not overfill containers.
- Clean up all spills as soon as possible using proper spill containment and personal protection methods and gear.
- Ensure that personal protective equipment (PPE) is maintained properly.
- Never dispose of unused chemicals by washing them into storm drains, ditches, or streams.
- Do not flush chemicals down an indoor drain or toilet.
- Know how to read and use SDS forms, and know where they are located at the worksite.
- Know what to do and who to contact in case of an emergency.

### Tips for Chemical Disposal

It is NEVER safe to pour chemical waste down a drain, into a gutter or into a trash receptacle. Some tips for safe chemical disposal include:

- Properly dispose of contaminated containers and never put chemicals in the trash.
- Follow all local, state and federal safe chemical disposal methods for spills.
- Never combine chemicals by placing them together in a waste container.
- Always refer to federal, state, and local guidelines for hazardous material disposal.
- When in doubt, ask before taking steps to dispose of chemicals or chemical waste.

### Additional Information Sources:

**OSHA Training:**  
<https://www.osha.gov/dte/index.html>

**EPA NPDES Stormwater Program:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>

This brochure is not intended to be a complete guide to hazard communication (HAZCOM) or hazardous materials (HAZMAT). Consult your manager or supervisor on your responsibilities with handling chemicals in the workplace.