

Preventative Tips

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Do not apply before it rains.
- Check your car, boat, or motorcycle for leaks. Repair leaks and clean up spills with absorbent material.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil, etc.), batteries, and oil-based paint at designated collection or recycling locations.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other pervious surface. Use biodegradable soap.
- Sweep up yard debris (leaves and grass clippings) and compost them rather than hosing down areas or blowing them into the street.
- Clean water-based paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.
- Pick up your pet's waste!
- Drain your pool into the sanitary sewer system where it can be treated.



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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UTRGV's Guide to a Clean Stormwater System





Introduction and Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires operators of MS4s (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) in urbanized areas to implement programs and practices to control polluted stormwater runoff. UTRGV is an MS4.

UTRGV's program regulates stormwater discharges from construction activities and any other sites within an MS4 by devising strategies for reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff and improving overall water quality using six minimum control measures (MCMs).

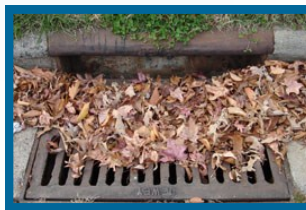
Stormwater is generally rain that runs off non-absorbent surfaces like rooftops, pavement, and compact gravel lots. As water flows across these surfaces, it picks up pollutants that are then deposited into ditches and canals which lead to Laguna Madre. The storm drain system receives no treatment. Pollutants that end up in storm drains can therefore harm fish and other wildlife by polluting large areas of water.

The 6 Minimum Control Measures

1. Public Education and Participation
2. Public Involvement
3. Enforcement of Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Oversight
5. Post Construction Oversight
6. Good housekeeping and Pollution Prevention

Although this program is mandated, we believe the public will embrace it. After all...

"Safety is in Everybody's Job Description."



Leaves clog up this catch basin, increasing the risk of flooding.



White paint was dumped into this storm drain. Cleanup will be expensive.

Common Pollutants

- Pet Waste
- Fertilizers and Pesticides
- Grass Clippings and Leaves
- Detergents from Car Washes
- Used Oil
- Pool Water
- Sprinkler Run-Off
- Paint
- Household Chemicals
- Antifreeze
- Garbage



Don't dump anything into storm drains. Storm drains lead directly to our water ways. *This is a violation!*

Get Involved

Participate in Local Cleanup.

Report a Polluter. If you see someone dumping illegally into storm drains or bodies of water, report it to your local stormwater specialist:

UTRGV Campus Violation: 956-665-3690

City of Edinburg: 956-388-8211

City of McAllen: 956-681-4000

City of Brownsville: 956-546-4357