



Reducing the Impact of Polluting Materials

BMPs: If soil is disturbed, utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as:

- Silt fence
- Erosion control blankets
- Geosynthetic products
- Polyacrylamides
- Other BMPs that will ensure the temporary stabilization of the soil until permanent vegetation can be established.

Make sure all workers on site know the BMPs. Establish the soil as soon as possible with permanent vegetation.

Vegetated Buffer: Where possible, keep a well vegetated buffer strip between stockpiles and drainage ways. Similarly, keep other polluting materials away from storm water flow paths.

Respect 'no mow' and 'no herbicide' buffers.



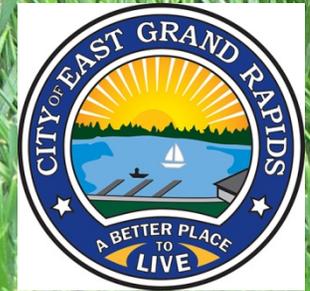
City of East Grand Rapids

In partnership with:



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Stormwater Information For Landscapers & Homeowners



The City of East Grand Rapids is regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA.

waters and inhibit drain systems.

When landscaping:

- Use methods & tools that prevent the release of pollutants.
- If prevention is not possible, *treat* the polluting substances to reduce their impact.
- If polluting substances are released in harmful quantities, you must report the release to the proper authorities.

Pollution sources:

- **Sediment:** Soil or dirt washed into waterways is a serious problem and can smother the eggs of fish and aquatic insects, phosphorus in the soil can cause excessive nutrient enrichment, and bacteria in the soil can be a public health concern.
- **Spills:** Includes oil, hydraulic fluid, gasoline, fertilizer, paint or solvents, herbicides, pesticides, or chemicals.
- **Landscape Debris:** Includes grass clippings, tree branches, mulch, top soil, and trimmings. These materials often contain nutrients and sediment that can pollute

Preventing Pollution:

Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams, so any oil, clippings. Leaves, or dirty wash water that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. Small amounts from many places can add up to a big problem!

Prevention methods and tools include:

- **Awareness:** Know which materials are potentially polluting materials and the drainage patterns leading to the waterways. Keep materials away from storm drains as much as possible.
- **Be Prepared:** Make sure someone is trained on spill cleanup. Clean up kits must be on site.
- **Proper Disposal:** Sweep up landscape debris and recycle or compost materials. At a minimum, debris should be taken to a landfill.
- **Protect from rain:** Do not allow stockpiles and materials to be washed away by rain or blown away by wind. Keep materials covered!
- **Secondary Containment:** Store all oil and fuel inside a containment area.
- **Rake it or leave it:** Never rake or blow leaves or clippings into roadways, ditches, or streams.

- **Modern Lawncare Techniques:**

- Mow high (3 inches) and use mulching mowers.
- Use watering sparingly.
- Sweep up or vacuum clippings from paved areas.
- Use o n l y z e r o phosphorus fertilizers unless a soil test demonstrates a need for phosphorus.
- Employ only licensed pesticide applicators.
- Use a sharp mower blade.
- Keep the mower deck clean.