



Central New York Stormwater Coalition

Commercial Dumpster Management

Commercial refuse containers may be a major source of stormwater pollution if they are not properly operated and maintained. Open dumpsters may collect rain water that mixes with the contents of the dumpster. The polluted water can then spill or leak when the container is emptied. Rain may wash leaking materials, spills and trash from dumpsters and compactors into storm drains. Wash water from cleaning refuse receptacles and loading docks is also a source of stormwater pollution. Runoff may contain grease, litter, bacteria, pathogens and chemicals. Properly maintained dumpsters and clean loading docks and parking lots will prevent unsightly conditions and unpleasant odors.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Recommendations

Place dumpsters in secure areas to discourage illegal dumping. Dumpsters should be placed on flat concrete surfaces where leaks won't drain in the direction of nearby storm drains.

Install a containment system such as a berm or curb around the dumpster area to contain leaks, spills, and trash. If possible, place the dumpster in a covered area.

Keep lids securely closed to prevent rainfall or snowmelt from mixing with the trash, to deter unwanted wildlife, and to avoid offensive smells.

Never place hazardous waste, oil, grease, or leaky garbage bags in the dumpster. Place all liquid waste in sealed containers for alternative disposal.

Avoid hosing out dumpster interiors and never use bleach or soap to clean dumpsters unless the wash water is diverted to a sanitary sewer system.

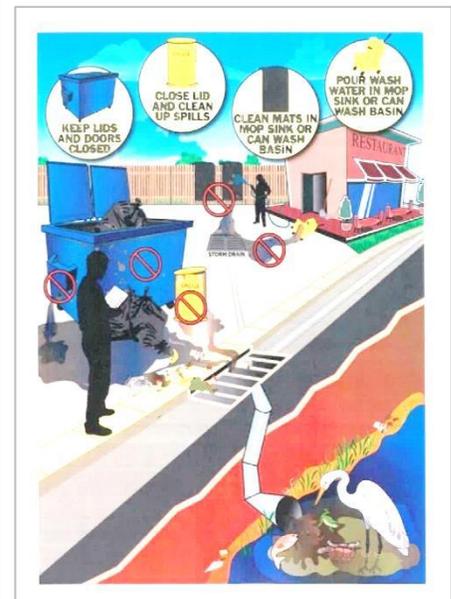
If a spill occurs, apply an absorbent to soak up the spilled material. Sweep and collect the used absorbent for proper disposal.

Place clear signage on dumpsters listing what types of waste can be accepted.

Empty the dumpsters on a regular basis. Sweep the dumpster area, and remove any trash that may have been left nearby. Increase dumpster service frequency if capacity is routinely exceeded.

Inspect all dumpsters on a regular basis - at least once a month. If leaks are detected, replace the dumpster as soon as possible to avoid the flow of liquid waste into nearby storm drains.

Recycle waste material as much as possible to reduce dumpster maintenance costs.



Storm drains that are normally found in parking lots and along streets are designed to gather and transport stormwater to local waterways. Storm drains don't remove pollutants from stormwater. They simply transport the runoff and discharge it to local waterways. Only clean, unchlorinated and unpolluted water such as precipitation and snowmelt is allowed to enter a storm drain.