A-25: Chemical Applications – Other Than Landscaping

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary.

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to the use of pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals for such purposes as removing or preventing future growth of rooftop moss, killing nuisance rodents, and using fungicides to preserve patio decks.

Application of pesticides for landscaping is covered under activity sheet A-5: Storage and Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers. Best management practices for washing of roofs are in activity sheet A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops and Other Large Surfaces.

Businesses/agencies engaged in this activity must comply with Public Health-Seattle and King County structural pesticide applicator regulations. The BMPs listed here are intended to complement other regulations. Washington pesticide law requires most businesses that commercially apply pesticides to the property of another to be licensed as a Commercial Applicator from the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Required BMPs

- Avoid excessive application of chemicals. Follow manufacturers' application guidelines and label directions.
- Never apply pesticides or other chemicals in the rain.
- Clean up any spilled chemicals immediately. Do not hose down chemicals to the stormwater drainage system.
- Do not spray pesticides within 100 feet of open waters, including wetlands, ponds, and streams, unless approved by local jurisdiction.
- Train employees on proper application and disposal practices

Supplemental BMPs

- Integrated pest management (IPM), a comprehensive approach to the use of pesticides which minimizes application and stresses selection of proper products and tailored application rates, is the most effective BMP measure that can be taken. IPM is applicable to businesses that frequently apply pesticides.
- Use manual pest control strategies such as physically scraping moss from rooftops, high-pressure sprayers to remove moss, and rodent traps.
- Select the least toxic chemical application that can accomplish the job.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: metals, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, and other pollutants.

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-2: Outdoor Storage of Liquid Materials in Stationary Tanks
    - A-3: Storage of Liquid Materials in Portable Containers
    - A-5: Storage and Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers
    - A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Surfaces
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Containment
    - Covering
    - Disposal

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.