A-56: Hazardous Materials Use, Storage and Disposal

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.

A variety of hazardous materials are routinely used in our day-to-day lives, including chemical cleaners, pesticides, paints, solvents, lighter fluid, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid and other automotive products, wood preservatives and even batteries from our electronic equipment.

Improper disposal and failure to keep hazardous products from rainwater contact may cause surface water and groundwater pollution. With so many hazardous materials present in thousands of businesses in King County, the cumulative adverse effects of poor usage, storage and disposal practices are potentially severe to human and environmental health.

Potential pollutants can include: fecal coliform bacteria, hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.

Required BMPs

- Store all hazardous materials inside a building, shed or under cover. Do not expose hazardous materials to stormwater.
- Use products only as specified on labeling directions.
- Carefully follow disposal directions on containers of chemicals.
- Never discharge or dump hazardous materials into stormwater drainage systems or on to the ground.
- Stormwater runoff from hazardous material storage areas may not be discharged to underground injection control (UIC) wells. For additional information, refer to BMP activity sheet A-57: Underground Injection Control (UIC).

Disposal Options

Dispose of and recycle hazardous wastes through the Hazardous Waste Program or other recycling programs or businesses. There are three fixed hazardous waste collection sites for household hazardous waste in Seattle and King County. See www.hazwastehelp.org/ or call the help line at 206-296-4692 for more information.

Tips

- Use the least toxic product available. See https://kingcountyhazwastewa.gov/en/households-disposal/households-safer-home-products for information on finding alternatives to hazardous household products.

Additional Information

- King County Hazardous Waste Management Program, https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/waste-services/hazardous-waste-program

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