

Storage of Pesticides and Fertilizers

This activity applies to you if you store non-liquid pesticides or fertilizers. See Activity Sheets A-2 and A-3 for storage of liquid materials. Runoff from pesticide storage areas can be contaminated with toxic compounds, oils, and metals. Runoff from fertilizer storage areas can be contaminated with nutrients and fecal coliform bacteria. The primary problem with most of these pollutants is that they are soluble, which means they cannot be removed from stormwater runoff, or out of contaminated water that seeps into the soil.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required if you are engaged in the storage of non-liquid pesticides and fertilizers:

1

Cover pesticides and fertilizers.



See BMP Info Sheet 3 in Chapter 5 for information on covering options, which includes nonstructural or structural options.

2

Raise the materials off the ground by using pallets or another similar method to prevent contact with stormwater runoff. Provide spill control.

OR

Contain the material in such a manner that if the container leaks or spills, the contents will not discharge, flow, or be washed into the storm drainage system, surface waters, or groundwater.



See BMP Info Sheet 5 in Chapter 5 for information on containment options.



Required Routine Maintenance:

- Store and maintain appropriate spill cleanup materials near the storage area, in a location known to all.
- Clean up any spilled fertilizer or pesticides and ensure that the materials are kept in the designated covered or contained areas.
- Sweep paved storage areas as needed. Collect and dispose of loose solid materials. Do not hose down the area to a storm drain or conveyance ditch.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.