



**Targeted Constituents**

● Significant Benefit		◐ Partial Benefit		○ Low or Unknown Benefit	
● Sediment	● Heavy Metals	● Floatable Materials	● Oxygen Demanding Substances		
● Nutrients	● Toxic Materials	● Oil & Grease	● Bacteria & Viruses	◐ Construction Wastes	

**Description**

Citizens, residents and property owners of Knoxville have the largest impact on the local streams and creeks. Most of the creeks, drainage channels and stormwater drains are located on private property. By eliminating pollution and protecting stormwater quality runoff, our streams and creeks will again support fish and other wildlife. It is important to protect stormwater quality since most city parks and recreation areas are located adjacent to streams and creeks.

The City of Knoxville is required to reduce various types of pollution by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. As part of the 1987 Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System was created with the enforcement rights assigned to state governments. TDEC issued a NPDES permit to the City of Knoxville in 1996. Stormwater quality data is reported to TDEC annually.

**Objective**

Citizens, residents and property owners must be aware that almost all discharges (solid or liquid) to a storm drain system, ditch, swale, creek, stream or curb inlet ..... or any ground surface that drains to a storm drain system ..... are illegal and expressly prohibited. Contact the Stormwater Quality Hotline at 215-2147 to report illegal discharges, dumping or stormwater pollution Related BMPs:

- AM-01, Employee Training
- Table AM-01-01, Quick Reference for Disposal Alternatives
- IC-01, Non-Stormwater Discharges to Storm Drains

**Approach**

The principal goal of this BMP is to eliminate all substances (liquid or solid) that do not belong in stormwater. The current Knoxville Stormwater and Street Ordinance (Chapter 22.5 of the City Code), which is posted at the City of Knoxville Engineering Department website, specifically describes the allowable discharges into stormwater; all other discharges are prohibited. Severe penalties and fines can be assessed for each incident. The following list of non-stormwater discharges are allowable:

1. Water line flushing;
2. Landscape irrigation;
3. Diversion of stream flows or rising groundwater;
4. Infiltration of uncontaminated groundwater [as defined at 40 CFR 35.2005(20)] to separate storm drains;
5. Pumping of uncontaminated groundwater;

6. Discharges from potable water sources, foundation drains, air conditioning condensate, irrigation waters, springs, water from crawl space pumps, or footing drains;
7. Lawn watering;
8. Individual noncommercial car washing on residential property; or car washing of less than two consecutive days in duration for a charity, nonprofit fund raising or similar noncommercial purpose;
9. Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands;
10. Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges;
11. Incidental street washing water from street cleaning equipment designed for cleaning paved surfaces and limiting waste discharges;
12. Street deicing for public safety;
13. Any activity authorized by a valid NPDES permit;
14. Any flows that result from firefighting.

The following non-stormwater discharges are explicitly prohibited by the Knoxville Stormwater and Street Ordinance. The list of prohibited discharges is not all-inclusive, as any type of discharge not specifically exempted (see list of 14 items above) is prohibited. In other words, these are only the more commonly observed violations.

- A. Raw sewage discharges or overflows, including sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs);
- B. Discharges of wash water resulting from the hosing or cleaning of gasoline stations, auto repair garages, or other types of automotive service facilities;
- C. Discharges resulting from the cleaning, repair, or maintenance of any type of equipment, machinery, or facility (includes motor vehicles, cement-related construction equipment, port-a-potty servicing, etc.);
- D. Discharges of wash water from mobile operations such as steam cleaning, power washing, pressure washing, carpet cleaning, and mobile carwash facilities;
- E. Discharges of wash water from the cleaning or hosing of impervious surfaces in industrial and commercial areas including parking lots, streets, sidewalks, driveways, patios, plazas, work yards, and outdoor eating or drinking areas;
- F. Discharges of runoff from material storage areas containing chemicals, fuels, grease, oil or hazardous materials;
- G. Discharges of pool or fountain water containing chlorine, biocides or other chemicals, and also discharges of pool or fountain filter backwash water;
- H. Discharges of water containing sediment or construction-related wastes;
- I. Discharges of food-related wastes such as grease, oil, fish processing water, kitchen mat wash water, trash bin wash water, pouring liquids into dumpsters, etc. This includes disposing unwanted food or liquid into ditches, creeks or streams to feed the “little critters”.

**References**     **30, 31, 33, 34, 35, Knoxville Stormwater and Street Ordinance**  
(see BMP Manual Chapter 10 for list)