

The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required for all commercial, industrial, agricultural, public, or residential properties with commercial activities in unincorporated King County.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs:

Clean and Maintain Storm Drainage System

- Evaluate the condition of the catch basin by checking the amount of sediment in the bottom of the sump. Catch basins must be cleaned out when the solids, trash, and debris in the sump reaches one-half of the depth between the bottom of the sump and the bottom of the lowest inflow or outflow pipe connected to the catch basin or is at least 6 inches below this point.
- Hire a professional drainage contractor to inspect and maintain your system or clean the system yourself. If there is sediment or other debris in the drainage pipes, then a professional contractor must be hired to flush or jet out the pipes.
- Small amounts of floating oil can be soaked up with oil absorbent pads, bagged and disposed of as solid waste.
- Up to one cubic yard of nonhazardous solid material may be disposed of as solid waste in your regular garbage. If you exceed this threshold hire a professional drainage contractor. All of the solids and stagnant water collected from catch basin sumps must be disposed of properly. None of the sump contents can be flushed into the catch basin outflow pipe. Depending on the nature of the pollutants in the sump, and the associated types of activities taking place on the site, the sump contents may need to be handled as contaminated waste. Contractors who perform catch basin clean-out services are required to follow appropriate disposal requirements.
- Clean and maintain catch basins annually. Sites with activities generating a lot of sediments and other debris will have to inspect and clean out their catch basins more often. Frequent sweeping of paved parking and storage areas will save time and money in maintaining the drainage system.
- Other components of drainage systems such as ponds, tanks, and bioswales must also be maintained. If this maintenance is beyond your ability, contractors are available to complete this work.

Label All Storm Drain Inlets on Your Property

- Stencil or apply storm drain markers adjacent to storm drains to help prevent the improper disposal of pollutants. If the storm drain grate is stamped with warnings against polluting, then additional marking may not be required if there is no evidence of pollutants being dumped or washed into the storm drain.

Eliminate Illicit Connections to the Storm Drainage System

- Connections to the storm drainage system that convey substances other than stormwater are prohibited. Examples are connections from internal floor drains, HVAC systems, industrial processes, sinks, and toilets.
- Illicit connections must be immediately removed, permanently plugged or re-plumbed.
- The discharge must be re-plumbed so that it goes to the sanitary sewer, a septic system, an on-site treatment system, or a holding tank for off-site disposal. There are restrictions on what can be disposed of to the sanitary sewer and septic systems. You may be required to do additional investigation to determine where all stormwater and non-stormwater discharges go. This may include smoke, dye, and chemical testing or closed circuit television inspection.

Additional Information:

- Drainage System Maintenance Contractors Information Sheet
- For stencils and instructions or to determine if you have an illicit connection, contact King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 or kingcounty.gov/stormwater.