



Keep Stormwater in Check: Onsite Drainage & BMP Maintenance

Good drainage is good business. Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)—like catch basins, swales, and detention ponds—are essential for keeping pollution out of our waterways. But they only work when they're properly maintained.

Neglecting your onsite drainage system can lead to flooding, costly repairs, and environmental violations.

Smart Maintenance Tips

- Inspect regularly — Check drains and BMPs at least once a quarter or after major storms.
- Remove buildup — Clean out sediment, debris, and litter that can clog stormwater structures.
- Document maintenance — Keep records of inspections, cleanings, and repairs to show compliance.

Drainage Inspection & Maintenance Log:

Spring
Date: Name
Notes

Summer
Date: Name
Notes

Autumn
Date: Name
Notes

Winter
Date: Name
Notes

More resources on stormwater in
Tompkins County:
tcstormwater.org



Onsite Drainage & BMPs Maintenance

DO'S

- Inspect storm drains, catch basins, and BMPs regularly—especially after rain.
- Schedule seasonal cleanouts to remove debris, leaves, and sediment.
- Repair cracked or damaged grates, curbing, or inlets as soon as possible.
- Educate your landscaping and maintenance crews on proper BMP care.
- Maintain access to stormwater structures—don't block them with dumpsters, pallets, or landscaping.
- Keep a maintenance log with photos and service records.

DON'TS

- Let trash, leaves, or landscaping waste collect in storm drains or drainage swales.
- Store chemicals, oils, or waste near stormwater inlets or discharge points.
- Assume someone else is responsible for BMP maintenance—check lease agreements or site plans.
- Wait until flooding or damage occurs to clean out your system.
- Use pressure washing without first sealing storm drains in nearby areas.
- Discharge wash water, paint, or construction runoff into storm drains.

Questions about stormwater at your business?
contact Angel Hinickle: ahinickle@tompkins-co.org
or visit tcstormwater.org