

Clean Lots, Clean Water: Stormwater Starts in the Parking Lot

Your parking lot is more than a place to park—it's also a stormwater hotspot. Oil drips, trash, sediment, and spilled chemicals can be picked up by rainwater and carried straight into storm drains—and from there, into local rivers and lakes.

Routine maintenance isn't just good for business—it helps meet environmental regulations and keeps pollutants out of our waterways.

Put Pollution in its Place!

- Sweep regularly to prevent trash and sediment from washing into storm drains.
- Spot clean spills using absorbent materials—never hose them down.
- Maintain landscaping to reduce runoff and erosion near paved surfaces.



**Parking Lot, Loading
Docks & Delivery Areas**



More resources on
stormwater in Tompkins County:
tcstormwater.org



BMPs for Maintaining Parking Lots

Most of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified below are non-structural and cost little or nothing to implement. This listing is not all-inclusive and other non-structural and structural BMPs can be implemented to further reduce the potential of contributing to stormwater pollution.

Source: ThinkBlueMA.org

DO'S

- Sweep paved surfaces at least monthly (or more frequently if needed).
- Use dry cleanup methods—brooms, absorbents, and vacuums—to remove pollutants.
- Empty and maintain trash cans and dumpsters to prevent overflow.
- Clean oil stains using absorbents—not soap and water.
- Make sure storm drains are clearly marked and unobstructed.
- Keep landscaping trimmed and mulch maintained to reduce erosion and improve infiltration.

DON'TS

- Hose down parking areas—wash water can carry pollutants into storm drains.
- Let debris, leaves, or trash accumulate in curbs and corners.
- Overuse de-icers or salt during winter months—excess runoff pollutes waterways.
- Store pallets, chemicals, or waste in uncovered areas near storm drains.
- Ignore small leaks or stains—they often signal bigger pollution issues.
- Assume “rain will wash it away”—that runoff heads straight to your local water.

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