

Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution



A Best Management Practice (BMP) is defined as: *any program, process, design criteria, operating method or device, which controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution.*

Rapid City has two drainage systems--the sanitary sewer system and the storm drain system. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets and into Rapid Creek. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the unintended function of carrying urban pollution directly into Rapid Creek. Rainwater, as well as runoff water from industrial, commercial and household sources mixes with urban pollutants and creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter, to name but a few. Every day, stormwater pollution is discharged into Rapid Creek and harms aquatic life and our quality of life. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure a cleaner environment and a better quality of life for our children.

The following activities describe various Best Management Practices (BMPs) that you can do at home or business to reduce the pollutants transported in stormwater:

[Auto Maintenance and Car Care](#)

[Food Service Industry](#)

[General Construction and Site Supervision](#)

[Heavy Equipment and Earth Moving Activities](#)

[Landscaping, Gardening and Pest Control](#)

[Private Sewage Disposal Systems](#)