

What is Certifiably Green Denver?

The Certifiably Green Denver Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Certifiably Green Denver offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

Why Participate?

Compliance - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

Cost Savings - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

Public Image - Superior environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

Public Recognition!

Certifiably Green Denver publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater and snowmelt. When stormwater flows across our parking lots and streets, it can pick up pollutants that are discharged directly into our rivers and streams through the storm drains located on streets and in parking lots. Any pollutants entering these drains flows untreated to the water bodies we use for drinking water, swimming, and fishing.



Storm drains are designed for precipitation only

Many business operations may contribute to stormwater pollution. These include, but are not limited to washing patios and sidewalks and allowing the water to run into the storm drainage system, dumpsters becoming full of water and leaking out, grease spills and cleaning equipment outside.

Wash waters are NOT allowed to go to a storm drain.

The City and County of Denver is required by its stormwater permit to identify and stop illegal discharges. For example, if stormwater flows along an alley and passes through a pool of spilled cooking oil; some of the cooking oil will be transported to the storm drain along with the stormwater and this is considered an illegal discharge.



Denver's Revised Municipal Code states that it is unlawful for any person to permit water or waste to be discharged into or over any street, alley or public way, or onto any land, in such manner as to endanger the interests, rights or property of any person or of the city. Citations and fines of up to \$999 per day, per violation can be issued for illegal discharges.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The objective in stormwater protection is to ensure that only rain water and snow melt go to a storm drain. BMPs are specific steps taken to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day business operations. All employees and service providers should read this information sheet as a training guide in order to ensure your facility is in compliance with stormwater regulations.

| ACTIVITY | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES |
|---|--|
| Landscaping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use native and/or low water use vegetation and alternative landscaping techniques such as xeriscaping. • Dispose of grass clippings, leaves, sticks, or other collected vegetation as garbage at a permitted landfill or by composting. • Irrigate slowly or pulse irrigate so the infiltration rate of the soil is not exceeded. Inspect system regularly. • Use mechanical methods of vegetation removal such as hand weeding rather than applying herbicides. • Do not apply pesticides if rain is expected or if wind speeds are above 5 mph. • Do not mix or prepare pesticides for application near storm drains. • Utilize integrated pest management techniques where appropriate. Remove insects by hand and place in soapy water or vegetable oil. |
| Cleaning of Patios, Parking Areas, Driveways and Walkways | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use “dry” cleanup methods such as sweeping, using absorbents and spot scrubbing stains to clean outdoor areas. • Outside driveways, parking areas, patios and walkways may not be hosed down or pressure washed UNLESS the following standards are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use dry cleanup methods prior to any pressure washing (e.g. absorbing with kitty litter, sweeping, vacuuming, scraping off dried debris). ○ Wash waters must be captured for proper disposal; collected waters should be discharged to a sanitary drain; ○ DO NOT use any chemicals and/or detergents AND if cleaning surfaces of ambient dust, then you may direct wash water to nearby landscaping OR contain it on-site and allow it to evaporate. ○ Utilize sand filters for oil waste. Clean out oil/water/sand separators regularly, especially after heavy rain. |
| Trash Receptacles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste receptacles must be sturdy, leak-tight, and equipped with lids or covers. Covers must be kept closed. • NEVER wash a trash container outside unless wash water is captured and discharged to a sanitary drain. • Clean up spills immediately, using dry methods when possible • Never place liquid-containing wastes in an outdoor waste receptacle. |
| Building Maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use water-based paints whenever possible and mix paint indoors. Wash paint brushes and buckets indoors. • Properly collect and dispose of water if pressure washing buildings, rooftops, and other large objects. • If cleaning agents are used (e.g. window cleaning fluid), select biodegradable products whenever feasible. |
| De-icing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the label and view the table above to pick safest de-icing products. • Shovel and scrape early and often – de-icers work best when there is only a thin layer to remove. • Follow product directions carefully. Apply de-icer early, but sparingly. A little salt goes a long way – applying more salt won’t speed up the melting process. • Remove slush after snow and ice has melted to prevent refreezing. • Reduce your liability and save money by reclaiming your de-icer for reuse by sweeping or vacuuming the solids from the sidewalk after the storm. Do not pressure wash sidewalks to remove de-icer without wastewater reclamation! It’s the law! |

Helpful Resources

See the Certifiably Green Denver website for more helpful resource sheets:

www.denvergov.org/CGD

For additional information on the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment’s stormwater permitting program, visit:

www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/news/water-quality-permits



Do not dump ANY materials into storm drains!

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