

**Best Management Practice (BMP)
Water Quality Protection Guideline
Fuel Dispensing Facilities**

For the purpose of this Water Quality Protection Guideline, fuel dispensing facilities are defined as any business or activity that stores and dispenses gasoline, kerosene and other similar fuels.



Section 1. Introduction

According to the EPA, the majority of water pollution in our streams today is directly caused by pollutants that have been dumped or spilled onto the ground and that are then washed from these surfaces into our creeks and streams by rainwater. This pollution is caused by many different sources and activities, each of which may seem insignificant when considered in isolation. However, stormwater runoff, acting as nature's bath, has the effect of collecting and combining each of these small pollutant sources, which drain into a local stream and causes significant levels of water pollution.

Fuel dispensing facilities have the potential to contribute pollutants such as toxic hydrocarbons, oils, greases, gasoline and wastewater from surface washing activities into our waterways.

Pollution from fuel dispensing facilities can be minimized or eliminated through the implementation of the simple water quality best management practices (BMPs) contained within this guideline.

With respect to fuel dispensing facilities this guideline is intended to provide minimum requirements for compliance with Gwinnett County's Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection (IDIC) Ordinance (Chapter 100, Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances). It is expected that individuals and companies involved in retail gasoline facility management will fully implement these guidelines and take any additional necessary and reasonable actions, as needed on a case-by-case basis, to prevent stormwater pollution.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Water Quality Protection Guideline is to:

- (1) provide details of water quality BMPs that may be implemented to assist in controlling pollutants associated with fuel dispensing facilities;
- (2) serve as a reference for regulators, inspectors and others who assess the water quality impacts of fuel dispensing facilities; and
- (3) provide guidance that, if implemented, will assist in securing compliance with Gwinnett County's Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection (IDIC) Ordinance.

Section 3. Best Management Practices

3.1. Fuel Dispensing Areas

- (1) Maintain fuel dispensing areas by using dry clean-up methods such as sweeping for removal of litter and debris, or use of rags or absorbents for leaks and spills.
- (2) Wastewater generated during the cleaning or rinsing of fuel dispensing areas on-site shall not be allowed to discharge to the storm sewer system. Allowing this wastewater to discharge to the storm sewer system will constitute a violation of Gwinnett County's Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection (IDIC) Ordinance.
- (3) Fit underground storage tanks with spill containment and overfill prevention systems.
- (4) Fit fuel dispensing nozzles with "hold-open latches" (automatic shutoffs).
- (5) Post signs at the fuel dispenser warning vehicle owners/operators against "topping off" of vehicle fuel tanks.

3.2. Facility-General

- (1) "Spot clean" leaks and drips routinely. Leaks are not cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.
- (2) Maintain and keep current a spill response plan and ensure that employees are trained on the elements of the plan.
- (3) Train all employees on proper methods for handling and disposing of waste. Make sure that all employees understand storm water discharge prohibitions, wastewater discharge requirements, and these best management practices.
- (4) Label all storm drains within the facility. Stenciling kits are available from Gwinnett County Stormwater Management Division.
- (5) Inspect and clean if necessary, storm drain inlets and catch basins within the facility boundary.
- (6) Wastewater generated during the cleaning or rinsing of parking lots, floors or any other surfaces on-site shall not be allowed to discharge to the storm sewer system. Allowing this wastewater to discharge to the storm sewer system will constitute a violation of Gwinnett County's Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance.

3.3. Storage

- (1) Properly store and handle potential contaminants (oils, detergents etc.) to prevent any spills or discharges onto the ground or into a storm drain. Adequate secondary containment and overhead cover must be provided around any potential contaminants being stored at the facility. Refer to Water Quality Protection Guideline 3 on secondary containment design standards.
- (2) Maintain appropriate spill equipment and materials on-site.
- (3) In the event of a spill or discharge to a storm drain or waterway, Gwinnett County Stormwater Management Division must be contacted @ 678-376-7000 immediately.

3.4. Outdoor Waste Receptacle Area

- (1) Minimize the possibility of storm water pollution from outdoor waste receptacles by doing at least one of the following:

- (a) use only watertight waste receptacles and keep lids closed, or
- (b)
 - i. install a roof over the waste receptacle area, and
 - ii. install a low containment berm around the waste receptacle area, or grade and pave to prevent stormwater from entering the waste receptacle area.

Section 4. General

- (1) It is illegal to dispose of any waste or pollutants into the storm sewer system. Penalties for non-compliance include fines of up to \$1,000 and/or 60 days in county jail.
- (2) To report a spill or discharge into the storm sewer system contact Gwinnett County's Storm Water Management Division's 24-hour call center at 678-376-7000.
- (3) Additional information regarding water quality, storm water programs and storm water best management practice implementation can be obtained by contacting Gwinnett County's Storm Water Management Division at 678-376-6926 or visiting www.gwinnettstormwater.com.