

OUR NATURAL

environment

WATER: A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Water plays an integral role in all aspects of life as it is broadly felt by all who see, touch and taste it. Second to the air we breathe, water is the basis for the survival of humans, animals, nature, the environment, and the economics of our community and the world.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTS AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS

The Landscaping Permit

Under the Village Drainage Code, residents and commercial property owners are required to obtain a landscaping permit when landscaping or grading activities are within 10 feet of the property line, within a drainage easement or disturb more than 500

square feet of soil. This includes new development and improvements to existing landscape. The landscaping permit ensures the appropriate measures are in place to stabilize the soil that has been disturbed in an effort to prevent sediment from leaving the site, traveling downstream and impacting water quality.

Final Stabilization

Ground cover — typically seed and straw mulch, sod, or landscape mulch — must be established within 30 days of the completion of the disturbance. Establishing the final ground cover and/or landscape mulch in planting

beds is required prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Completion. Since most construction sites do not complete stabilization until the end of the project because of the constant construction traffic around the improvements, temporary perimeter controls such as silt fencing are required and kept in place until the lawn and turf areas are established.

Long-Term Stabilization

The measures that will establish long-term stabilization include the installation of a native, drought tolerant seed mix with an erosion control blanket with aspen fibers and double-sided biodegradable netting that must be staked in place. Another option is to install landscape mulch — either bark or rock — to cover the disturbed area. The last alternative to achieve soil stabilization is the placement of sod. The recommended measures could be used alone or together with high traffic areas or steep slopes receiving landscape mulch or sod, and all other areas receiving the drought tolerant native seed mix with erosion control fabric.



Erosion control blanket and drought tolerant seed mix is a short-term technique used to establish permanent vegetation.

AUGUST SEASONAL TIP

Check your sprinkler system for leaks and broken sprinkler heads and have them repaired immediately. Often outdoor leaks are hidden or difficult to find, and they quickly increase your water bill and add no benefit to your lawn and garden.

DISCHARGES FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES

The most common pollutant at construction sites is sediment. Grading activities which remove grass, rocks, and pavement result in the exposure of sediment. The Village requires contractors at a minimum to provide perimeter sediment and erosion control devices to minimize the sediment that would flow off the construction site during a rain storm. Contractors are required to provide vehicle tracking control pads to prevent construction traffic from carrying dirt onto the roadways.

ILLICIT DISCHARGES — WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

An illicit discharge occurs when something other than stormwater is allowed to enter a storm drainage system. The cause can be intentional such as when someone deliberately dumps chemicals, waste or trash into a storm sewer. Illicit discharges can be unintentional as well, such as when people leave chemicals, lawn clippings, or pet waste in an area where stormwater may carry the contaminant to the storm sewer. Storm drains are separate from sanitary systems which means stormwater runoff does not receive treatment before it empties into local waterways. Dumping anything other than stormwater into a storm drain allows these pollutants to directly enter waterways causing public health concerns, harm to wildlife, and unpleasant odors or color.

There are allowable non-stormwater discharges that can be discharged into the storm drain. These include but are not limited to potable water sources including fire fighting activities that do not contain hazardous materials, water line flushing, street sweeper wash water, agricultural stormwater runoff, landscape irrigation, de-



Waterways are easily polluted by common household items such as paint that may be dumped directly down the storm drain.

chlorinated swimming pool discharges, uncontaminated sump pumps, air conditioning condensation (without pollutants), diverted stream flows, uncontaminated groundwater, and flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.

Types Of Illicit Discharges

Materials such as paint, herbicides, pesticides, yard waste, automotive fluids, soaps, and pet waste are all considered illicit discharges.

How Can You Help?

- Never dump anything down a storm drain.
- Dispose of yard and pet waste properly. Mulch or bag leaves and grass clippings and do not sweep or blow yard waste into the street or gutter.
- Avoid excess use of lawn fertilizers and sweep excess fertilizers back onto lawns and not into the street or gutter.
- Wash your car on your lawn or at a

commercial car wash facility.

- Make sure sanitary, laundry, carwash, and industrial wastewaters do not drain to the storm sewer system.
- De-chlorinate pool water before draining.
- Keep your neighborhood storm drains clean of debris and litter by keeping waste receptacle lids secured.
- Participate in the Village's Household Hazardous Waste curbside pickup program by calling 1-800-449-7587.

What Should You Do If You See An Illicit Discharge?

In order to keep our environment clean, please report any suspected illegal dumping or discharging to Public Works at 303-708-6100 during normal business hours or e-mail wdevargas@greenwoodvillage.com. After normal business hours, please call the Police Department at 303-773-2525. *GV*