

Residential Storage of Solid and Food Wastes

Improper storage of household garbage and other wastes can lead to a variety of pollutants in storm water runoff. Waste such as leaking garbage cans, yard waste containers without lids, scrap piles, and junk vehicles and equipment can cause polluted runoff from your property to drain to surface and groundwater. Contaminants such as oils, greases, nutrients, bacteria, pathogens, and suspended solids are carried to our creeks, streams, lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required in storage of solid and food wastes at your home.

1

Dispose of unwanted garbage or scrap in your regular garbage service pickup containers, or dispose of garbage and scrap at a landfill or transfer station. Do not let garbage accumulate at your residence. The accumulation of garbage is a surface water concern and a health issue. Accumulated garbage can attract rodents, rats, mosquitoes, and other pests that are also health hazards.

2

Waste stored outside should be kept in covered containers or be covered with a tarp. All waste containers that are outdoors must have lids or covers.

OTHER OPTIONS AND TIPS

1

Recycle as much as possible. Someone else may be able to use leftover paints, finishes, cleaning materials, building materials, etc. Contact a neighbor, friend, school, church, or community group to see if your left over materials can be used. The King County Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) is a good resource for finding uses for your left over materials. Call IMEX at 206-296-4899 or send an e-mail to imex@metrokc.gov. Consult the IMEX Web site for more information, at <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex>. Another recycling resource is the King County Online Materials Exchange at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/exchange>.

The King County Solid Waste Division provides waste disposal and recycling information at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/index.asp>. Information regarding proper household hazardous waste disposal is available at <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house>, or contact the Hazards Line at 206-296-4692. See Activity Sheet R-4, "Residential Hazardous Waste Use, Storage, and Disposal".



Compost biodegradable wastes rather than disposing of them as garbage. Contact the King County Solid Waste Division at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/composting/index.asp> for more information on composting yard and kitchen waste.



Information on yard waste collection services is available at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/garbage-recycling/yardwaste.asp>



Bury pet waste in your yard (not in vegetable gardens) or dispose of in sanitary sewer systems such as your toilet. See <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/composting/petwaste.asp>

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.