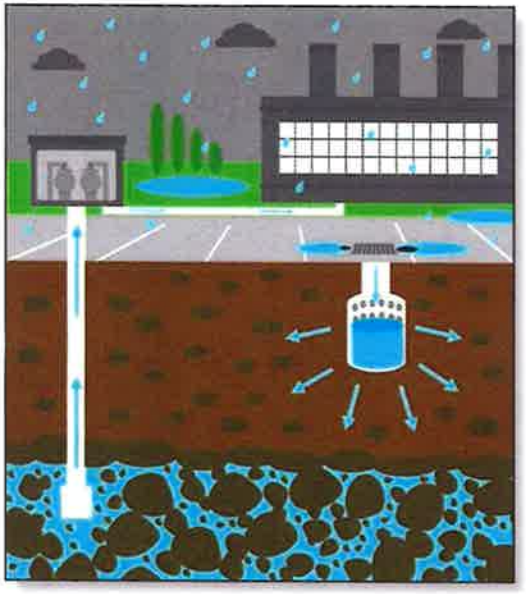
Stormwater runoff can pollute groundwater

As stormwater runs over hard surfaces, it picks up oil, chemicals, bacteria and other pollutants. Stormwater flows into swales, local streams, or into an Underground Injection Control (UIC) system such as a drywell or drill hole. In a drywell, a large "empty" well, water soaks into the soil and some pollutants are filtered out before it enters groundwater (see figure, below).



A UIC releases stormwater underground; water wells pull groundwater for drinking and other uses.

Regulatory Information

Underground Injection Control (UIC) systems are regulated by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Find information on DEQ's UIC program at: *http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/uic/uic.htm*

Find out if your business is located in a drinking water protection area by checking: *http://www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/dwp/results.htm*

Consult with your local municipality and the DEQ for guidance on discharging non-polluted roof drainage to a drywell without pretreatment.

All commercial and industrial drywell owners must register with DEQ. For information contact:

Oregon DEQ: 503/229-5630

Statewide Toll-Free: 1/800-452-4011

For questions, or to report illicit dumping, please contact:

Clean Water Tips for BUSINESS and INDUSTRY

ACWA gratefully acknowledges the DEQ for several concepts and best practices noted herein.

The water you protect may be your own!

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oregon association of CLEAN WATER agencies

Outside Activities

- Never dump anything into gutters, storm drains or onto the street.
- Prevent spills and report illicit dumping immediately (see back).
- Properly maintain stormwater facilities on your property for effective treatment.
- Use landscaping pesticides and fertilizers sparingly; do not apply before rain or during high winds; sweep up excess.
- Sweep up and collect dirt and debris rather than hose or blow it off to the street/storm drain.
- Landscape bare soil to prevent erosion.
- Clean vehicles at a commercial car wash or use a covered wash rack that drains to an approved sanitary sewer or a holding tank. Holding tanks must be routinely emptied and the wastewater properly disposed of.

Floors and Plumbing

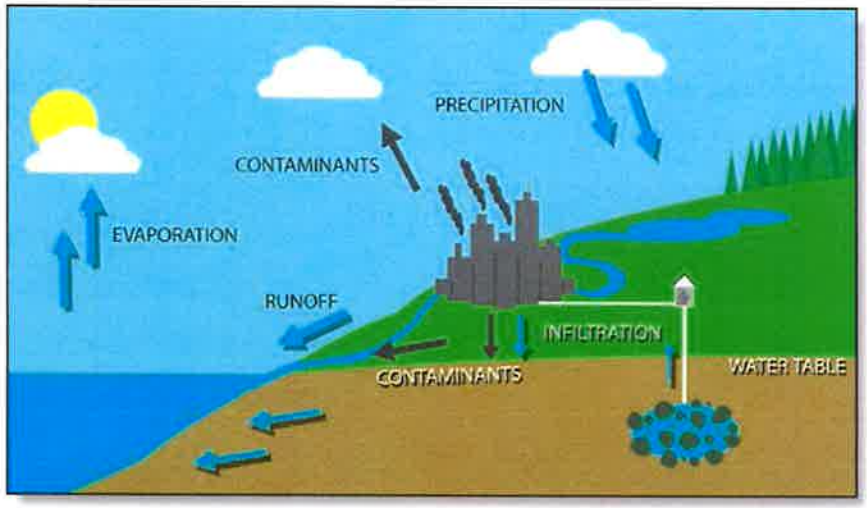
- All floor drains must discharge to the sanitary sewer system or a holding tank as approved by your local municipality.
- In chemical storage and work areas, seal floors with impermeable materials resistant to any acids, caustics, solvents, oils or other pollutants that may be at the facility.
- Identify and eliminate any illegal cross connections between the storm drain and the sewer lines.

Storage Areas

- Properly label containers and keep closed when not in use.
- Cover storage areas; allow access only to authorized, properly trained personnel.
- Use secondary containment to reduce spill potential from areas where chemicals are stored, loaded or unloaded.

Work Areas

- Keep spill response kits easily available.
- Clearly post emergency contact numbers in storage, loading/unloading, dispensing and work areas.
- Make Safety Data Sheets (also known as MSDSs) readily available, and train workers.
- Maintain equipment properly to reduce leaks and breakdowns: regularly inspect equipment, test tanks, replace worn parts, seals and gaskets.
- Repair leaks and clean spills properly and promptly.
- Use non-hazardous materials when possible.
- Properly dispose of hazardous wastes.
- Separate waste-generating operations from other activities, within a confined area with sealed floors and no direct outside access, if possible.
- Provide proper storage areas for spent chemicals, soiled rags, and other wastes.



You can prevent pollutants from entering the water cycle!

Did you know that approximately 70% of Oregon's residents rely at least partly on drinking water that is pumped from groundwater? Polluted groundwater is very expensive or impossible to clean up.

Your healthy business practices help protect Oregon's drinking water and your family from harmful pollutants. Good stormwater and spill control practices not only protect precious water resources, but also avoid violations that could result in fines, imprisonment and other legal action.