



DUMPSTER MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

Why is this Necessary?

Almost every business generates waste and temporarily stores it on-site. Many businesses have dumpsters, compactors, or refuse bins. These containers are typically kept behind buildings or in alleys, where they are often out of sight of customers and the public.

Commercial refuse containers may be a major source of stormwater pollution if they are not properly operated and maintained. Open dumpsters may collect rainwater that mixes with the contents of the dumpster. The polluted water often spills or leaks when the container is emptied. Rain may wash leaking materials, spills, and trash from dumpsters and compactors into storm drains where they enter lakes and rivers. Wash water from cleaning refuse receptacles and loading docks is another source of stormwater pollution. Runoff may contain grease, litter, bacteria, pathogens, and chemicals. Properly maintained dumpsters and clean loading docks may prevent unsightly conditions and unpleasant odors.

Steps to Properly Maintain Dumpsters

Your business is important to our community and, like other community partners, you need to properly dispose of business waste products. Do your part to prevent contamination and by-products from polluting streams, lakes, and groundwater. A few simple practices keep trash, sediment, chemicals, soaps, and wastewater out of storm drains and waterways.

HAVING CLEAN WATER

Having clean water is important for our health and economy. Clean water provides a chance for recreation like swimming, fishing, and boating. Clean water can provide jobs and commercial opportunities and adds beauty to our landscape as well as being important for wildlife habitats. All of us benefit from clean water—and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, and groundwater clean.



Let's make one thing
Perfectly Clear.
our water
Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium





Locate and Install

- » Ensure that no dirty water or trash from dumpsters enters the storm drain or local waterway.
- » Keep dumpsters and compactors in a covered area. If not practical, ensure covers on each receptacle are closed.
- » Install berms or curbs around dumpsters and loading docks to contain leaks, spills, and trash. Collect any washwater with a wet vacuum system.
- » Install a water quality management device such as a grassed filter strip or hydrodynamic separator to treat runoff from the dumpster area.

Inspect Dumpsters and Compactors Regularly

- » Train staff to recognize spills from dumpsters and use appropriate clean-up methods and disposal practices.
- » Inspect for litter or stains at least once per week.
- » Inspect for leaks, particularly in the lower corners of the container where rust is common, at least once a month.

Maintain

- » Keep dumpster areas clean by making an employee responsible for the area and making it a routine preventive maintenance order.
- » Sweep the area around the dumpster and loading docks regularly and place sweepings in the trash. Do not use a hose to wash down pavement.

- » Control litter by making sure waste is contained in dumpsters and compactors.
- » Keep dumpster lids tightly closed to keep rainwater out and prevent leaks.
- » Increase receptacle service frequency if capacity is routinely exceeded.
- » Post signs that indicate the materials that can be placed in the container. Check regularly for unacceptable materials.

Replace

- » Call your waste management contractor for a replacement unit.
- » Replace dumpsters that are damaged or have missing lids.
- » Replace leaking dumpsters, waste containers, and compactors as soon as possible.

Avoid

- » Avoid or minimize placing liquid waste, grease, or leaky garbage bags into dumpsters. Place liquid waste in closed (or sealed) containers for disposal.
- » Avoid hosing out the dumpster interior. Apply absorbent materials such as kitty litter over any liquids spilled in the dumpster and dispose of it in the trash.
- » Do not place hazardous waste in a dumpster. Lock the dumpster or enclosure to prevent illegal disposal of hazardous materials.

For more information, contact the Genesee County Drain Commissioner

Surface Water Management
810.732.1590 | www.gcdcswm.com
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

Water & Waste Services
810.732.7870 | www.gcdcwws.com
Sanitary Pre-treatment Program (IPP)

