



Dumpster & Stormwater Best Practices *for Massachusetts Boards of Health*

What Do Leaky Dumpsters Have to do with Boards of Health?

Rain that falls into and around dumpsters can pick up oil, grease, sediment, and bacteria. When this stormwater ends up in our lakes, rivers, and streams, it can harm wildlife, ruin outdoor recreation, and make our water unsafe to drink.

These best practices are proactive, practical, and affordable techniques to reduce stormwater pollution; protect and improve water quality; and comply with the EPA federal stormwater (MS4) permit, which can reduce liabilities and penalties for your community.

Dumpster Ordinance & Regulations

Do your ordinances and regulations require the following best practices?

- Dumpsters shall be covered at all times. Keep sliding doors and top lids closed except when filling or emptying the dumpster.
- Dumpsters shall be leak-proof. There should be no holes, rust, or liquids leaking from them on a daily basis. Ensure the drain plug for the container is in place. The sanitation company/owner must replace the plug immediately to ensure liquids from the dumpster do not leak out and enter the stormwater drainage system.
- All material must be securely bagged before being desposited in the dumpster. Do not put liquids or cooking greases in the garbage dumpster.
- Ensure enforcement authority. The BoH and/or its agents may conduct random inspections and sanitary surveys of dumpsters and surrounding areas to verify compliance.

Education & Outreach

Consider employing an education campaign targeting sanitation companies and dumpster users.

- Supply dumpster users (including commercial tenants, such as restaurants and retail stores; and residential tenants of apartment complexes) with educational material on proper waste disposal.
- Work with sanitation companies to engage in education of their clients.

For more information on stormwater best practices, and to find model educational material to share with your constituents, visit:
<https://ThinkBlueConnecticutRiver.org>



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