



**Columbus Consolidated Government
Department of Engineering
Stormwater & Floodplain Mgt.
Division
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Highly Visible Pollutant Sources Fact Sheet

What is a Highly Visible Pollutant Source?

Highly Visible Pollutant Sources (HVPS) are simply sources of potential stormwater runoff and water quality problems that are easily seen on the outside of a commercial business or industrial location.

CCG is required to inspect each and every HVPS in our inventory at least once every 5 years. Inspectors can also be alerted to potential HVPS problems either by a citizen complaint or a fellow CCG employee's report.

When an Inspector visits the site they will conduct a thorough inspection, including:

- ✓ Parking lot and property area for trash and debris/illicit discharges
- ✓ Outdoor loading area(s) for trash and debris, storm drain proximity location(s), and visual inspection to ensure no spills/illicit discharge(s) of any type is observed
- ✓ Trash receptacle area(s) for drain proximity location, trash and debris, lids covered, and adequate size and condition
- ✓ Outfall inspection(s) to ensure no illicit discharges are observed, no obstruction and to ensure if outfall is in adequate condition
- ✓ Outside storage inspection for storm drain proximity, to ensure all containers are labeled, in decent condition, have secondary containment or is covered or located in outside covered storage area
- ✓ Vehicle maintenance, repair and storage area(s) to ensure no trash and debris, spills or runoff of any type observed, all containers used for storage and cleanup are labeled, covered and are in adequate condition

Why does the CCG Inspect My Business?

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain falls onto impervious surfaces, such as roadways and rooftops, which prevent the water from soaking into the ground. As



the water flows over these surfaces toward the nearest storm drain, it can pick up any number of pollutants, affecting the water quality of our drinking water sources and aquatic habitat. By conducting inspections of commercial businesses, CCG Inspectors can identify potential pollution sources before they become a problem.

What is the Inspector Looking For?

The inspector has a Facility Inspection checklist to follow, as mandated by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

A general inspection of the property will be conducted to check the condition of:

- ✓ Stormwater drainage structures, to include detention and water quality best management practices installed during construction
- ✓ Wastes and recycling areas (dumpsters, grease bins, etc.)
- ✓ Loading docks
- ✓ Outdoor storage material areas
- ✓ Fleet vehicle maintenance and repair facilities
- ✓ Parking areas
- ✓ Any potential or existing stormwater pollution concerns

What happens next?

Approximately a week after the inspection, you will receive a letter summarizing the findings of the inspection and a list of corrective actions that will be required to bring your site into compliance with State and local laws. If corrective actions are required, the letter serves as a Notice to Comply, which is like a Warning. You will be given a 30+ day time period to complete all the recommendations. If after the compliance period has lapsed and the property is still in violation, a Summons to Appear in Environmental Court will be issued..

How Can I Stay in Compliance?

Conduct a weekly visual inspection of your property to catch problems early. Keep in contact with your inspector if you have questions or concerns about properly maintaining your property to protect water quality.

For more information contact:

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