

Best Management Practices for Urban Homeowners

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are simple techniques that improve water quality and reduce the quantity of water that runs off your property.

Permeable Paving

New concrete, asphalt, and paver block technologies reduce the need to find locations to intercept runoff.

Turfgrass Management

Aeration

- Annual core aeration improves infiltration, and fertilizer penetration.
- Perform prior to a compost application to improve your soil organic matter content.

Compost

- For new construction, consider applying 2 inches of composted organic matter.
- Try to increase your soils organic matter to 5% (measured with your soil test)
- Grass will retain more water, need less fertilizer and do better in dry summer months.

Mowing

- Mow to 2" height during cool weather
- Mow 3" during high temps not clipping off more than 1/3 of the leaf height. Not bagging clippings provides up to 75% of your annual fertilization needs and increases soil organic matter.

Downspout Management

- Change the direction of your downspouts. If downspouts are draining directly onto a sidewalk or driveway, can they be re-directed to the lawn?
- "French" Drains: Must be kept away from foundations and above the water table.
- Rain Barrels: A great way to conserve water for watering flowers/vegetable gardens. Downspouts should be screen to bypass large storms.
- Soak A-Way Pits/Dry Wells: Designed to receive runoff from individual roof leaders. They are small excavated pits, backfilled with rock.