

STREETS AND PARKING LOTS

Introduction

Regular sweeping and catch basin cleanout on streets and municipally-owned parking lots is important for maintaining clean and safe roadways. It also plays a vital role in keeping pollutants like sand, trash, and leaves out of the MS4. The goal of this written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide guidance to municipal employees on street and parking lot sweeping and catch basin cleanout procedures and frequencies to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the storm drainage system and receiving waters. When services are contracted, this SOP should be provided to the contractor. The contract should specify that the contractor is responsible for compliance with all applicable laws.

Streets and municipally-owned parking lots are swept once per year, each spring, using contractor-selected equipment and catch basin cleanout is performed by contract once every year.

Procedures

The Town will implement the following street and parking lot cleaning procedures to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4:

Sweeping Frequency

- All streets should be swept and/or cleaned a minimum of once per year in the spring (with the exception of rural uncurbed roads with no catch basins or high speed limited access highways).
- Sweep as soon as possible after snow melt and following winter activities such as sanding to capture sand and debris before it is washed into the storm drainage system.
- The Town will consider more frequent sweeping for targeted areas based on pollutant load reduction potential, inspections, pollutant loads, catch basin cleaning or inspection results, land use, impaired waters, or other factors. Based on the most recent feedback from the Town's catch basin cleaning contract, annual cleaning for all catch-basin locations throughout the Town is currently adequate, with no problem areas identified for targeted cleaning.
- For rural uncurbed roadways with no catch basins and limited access highways, the Town will either meet the minimum frequency described above, or develop and implement an inspection, documentation, and targeted sweeping plan outlining reduced frequencies within two (2) years of the effective date of the MS4 Permit, and submit such plan with its year one annual report.
- In accordance with Charles River Phosphorus TMDL requirements, the Town will conduct more frequent sweeping for municipally-owned streets and parking lots. Sweeping will be performed in these areas a minimum of two times per year, once in the spring (following winter activities such as sanding) and at least once in the fall (Sept. 1 – Dec. 1; following leaf fall) to reduce runoff to Charles River.
- In accordance with the Charles River Phosphorus TMDL requirements, the Town will increase street sweeping frequency in commercial areas, high density residential areas, or drainage areas with a large amount of impervious area.

- The Town's annual report will include the sweeping schedule developed above to target areas with high pollutant loads.

Sweeping Practices

- Street sweeping should be conducted in dry weather. Sweeping should not be conducted during or immediately after rain storms.
- Dry cleaning methods should be used whenever possible, with the exception of very fine water spray for dust control. Avoid wet cleaning or flushing of the pavement.
- When necessary, enact parking bans to facilitate sweeping on busy streets.
- Sweep in a manner that avoids depositing debris into storm drains.
- Sweeping equipment (mechanical, regenerative air, vacuum filter, tandem sweeping) should be selected depending on the level of debris. Brush alignment, sweeper speed, rotation rate, and sweeping pattern should be set to optimal levels to manage debris.
- Routinely inspect and perform maintenance on sweeping equipment to reduce the potential for leaks. See the SOP for Operations and Maintenance of Municipal Vehicles and Equipment for more information.

Sweepings Reuse and Disposal

- The reuse of sweepings is recommended by MassDEP. If street sweepings are reused (e.g., as anti-skid material or fill in parking lots), they should be properly filtered to remove solid waste, such as paper or trash, in accordance with their intended reuse. All reuse and/or disposal of street sweepings will be managed in accordance with current MassDEP policies and regulations.
- Sweepings intended for reuse can be stored for up to one year in approved temporary storage areas. Storage areas should be protected to prevent erosion and runoff and should be located away from wetland resource areas and buffer zones, surface water, or groundwater.
- Sweepings are classified as solid waste. If not reused, they should be disposed of at solid waste disposal sites.
- For additional information on approved reuses of sweepings and storage/disposal policies, refer to MassDEP policy #BAW-18-001: Reuse and Disposal of Street Sweeping (<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/05/14/street-sweepings.pdf>).
- The Town will store sweepings intended for reuse at the DPW yard in accordance with MS4 regulations. Street sweepings will be disposed of in Nashua once full.

Documentation and Reporting

The following information will be tracked:

- Number of miles cleaned or the volume or mass of material removed.

Employee Training

- Employees who perform street and parking lot sweeping are trained annually on these procedures and the proper operation of related equipment.

- Employees are also trained on stormwater pollution prevention, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) procedures, and spill and response procedures.
- If services are contracted, the contractor should be given a copy of this and any applicable SOPs to ensure compliance with MS4 regulations.

Related Standard Operating Procedures

1. Operations and Maintenance of Municipal Vehicles and Equipment

This SOP adapted from Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition SOP template.