

Landowner Fact Sheet

Dumpster Management



Excerpt from the Long Creek Watershed Management Plan
Page 36:

“Pollution prevention generally consists of a materials management and an alternative product substitution component. Materials management includes the appropriate management and safe handling of common chemicals or substances that may be exposed to stormwater runoff. These materials include fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, cleaners, automotive products and commercial trash and waste. Pollution prevention BMPs should consider material use controls, material storage controls, and material disposal controls.”

Long Creek Watershed Management District

Implemented with assistance from the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Best Management Practices

Dumpsters require simple management practices in order to keep waste contained. Release of solids and liquids intended for disposal doesn't just ruin aesthetics, it also carries pollutants that can affect organisms living in the water.

Good Housekeeping

Practicing good housekeeping measures will help keep waste inside the dumpster:

- **Empty Regularly:** Ensure dumpsters are scheduled to be emptied regularly—before they are full. Garbage bags that are stored outside of the dumpster are more likely to be broken open by accident or by animals.
- **Keep it covered:** Always close the cover of the dumpster. The cover prevents rain water from entering, loose garbage from blowing out, and animals from accessing and removing garbage. Keep drain plugs in at all times. If the plug is removed, contaminated water will flow out of the dumpster, on to the ground, and into water resources.
- **Prime Positioning:** Dumpsters should be placed away from storm drains that often lead directly to Long Creek. Lids should be closed while installing dumpster to ensure the lid does not become trapped in the open position.
- **Limit Liquids:** Liquids like fats, oils, and grease (FOG) should be disposed of in a FOG Storage Container. Other liquids may be disposed of in the sanitary sewer unless otherwise specified on the packaging. Only empty containers should be disposed of in the dumpster with the lid on.
- **Pick-up the Perimeter:** The area around the dumpster should be maintained daily. If garbage falls out of the dumpster, it needs to be picked up before it is washed away or blown into water resources.

