

# LANDSCAPING/GROUND MAINTENANCE BMP FACTSHEET 20

Rev. 04/2023



## Targeted Pollutants

Sediment	X
Nutrients	X
Trash	X
Metals	
Bacteria	
Oil & Grease	
Chemicals	
Salt	

## Objectives

Cover	
Contain	X
Educate	X
Reduce/Minimize	X
Product Substitution	

## DESCRIPTION

Chemicals used to maintain landscapes can cause serious pollution issues if not handled properly. Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides contain chemicals harmful to the environment, wildlife and humans. Proper handling and disposal of these products are very important and can help prevent pollution migration during storm events. The use of all fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on Fort Belvoir are regulated under either a Nutrient Management Plan or the Integrated Pest Management Plan.

## GUIDELINES

- Select appropriate fertilizers and read and follow the manufacturer’s recommendations and directions for proper use.
- Avoid application of fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide before or during heavy rainfall events or sprinkler use.
- When using spreader applicators, avoid getting fertilizer on paved areas. Sweep up any granules off hard surfaces and put them back onto the lawn or properly dispose of the excess.
- All excess fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides need to be disposed of properly as outlined in Fort Belvoir’s Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Plan.
- Chemicals, like fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides should be stored indoors. If indoors is not feasible, ensure materials are covered and stored in a “high and dry” manner.
- Do not blow grass clippings or leaves onto sidewalks or streets if they are not going to be picked up immediately following the activity. Do not dump yard waste into storm drains. Properly dispose of them in the trash.
- Cover bare ground with vegetation or mulch to prevent soil erosion.
- Stabilize areas where pedestrian traffic has damaged turf or plants. Consider using alternative materials such as river rock, wood chips, or mulch in heavy use areas.
- When possible, remove unwanted vegetation manually instead of using herbicides.
- All yard clippings and other organic waste WILL be collected and disposed of at the appropriate facility (either a landfill or recycling center).
- For residential buildings, consider installing a pet waste pick-up bag dispenser and receptacle.
- Consider replacing areas of high maintenance turf with native plants, groundcovers, shrubs and trees.
- Consider planting gardens, hedgerows and wildflower meadows.

# LANDSCAPING/GROUND MAINTENANCE BMP FACTSHEET 20



## PESTICIDE APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Integrated Pest Management Program is administered by DPW-Environmental Division, Pest Management Program Manager who can be contacted at (703) 805-3969.

- All pest control on Fort Belvoir is currently provided by the DPW Pest Control Contract administered by DPW-Environmental Division.
  - For pest issues in your workplace (ants, mice, etc.) please notify the Pest Management Program Manager and include your contact information, location where problem is occurring and a description of the problem.
- Only pesticides on the DoD approved list may be applied to DoD lands.
- All applicators must obtain a "Pesticide Applicator Initial Certifications" from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Acquisition and Sustainment (Armed Forces Pest Management Board) in order to apply pesticides on Department of Defense lands.
  - All application reports must be submitted monthly to the DPW Pest Management Program Manager.

## MAINTENANCE/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Do not wash fertilizer spreaders, pesticide application equipment or other landscape equipment where the wash water can run off into a storm drain.
- All debris collected during stormwater infrastructure maintenance activities **MUST** be taken to the approved collection area at the wash rack.
- All leaves/branches collected during the landscaping/grounds maintenance activities **MUST** be collected and disposed of at the appropriate location (either landfill or recycling center).
- Read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations and directions for maintenance of equipment.
- Regularly inspect equipment and material storage for damages and leaks.

## SPILL RESPONSE PROCEDURES

In the event of a spill or leak, follow the appropriate Spill Response Procedures posted at your facility or refer to the BMP Factsheet Overview.

- **Survey the incident** from a safe distance. Identify the source of release and the material being released.
- Call the Ft. Belvoir Fire Department if spills are *greater than 5 gallons OR greater than 5 square feet*. If ANY amount of leaked material has entered a storm drain or waterway call the Ft. Belvoir Fire Department at 703-781-1800 and DPW Environmental Division (Env. Div.) at 703-806-3694.
- Provide the Safety Data Sheet of the spilled material to the spill response personnel.
- Fill out Spill Incident Report in your SWPPP.
- **REPORT ALL SPILLS REGARDLESS OF SIZE TO DPW/ENV. DIV.**

## REPORT SPILLS TO DPW/ENV. DIV. BY:

- E-mailing your Spill Incident Report to [zachary.d.witman.civ@army.mil](mailto:zachary.d.witman.civ@army.mil)
- Calling 703-806-3694