

Mulching/Grass-cycling

About

Mulch is used to protect precious topsoil and inhibit weed growth by covering the areas in landscapes where the soil is exposed. As the organic matter in the mulch decays, the released nutrients feed the plants and beneficial microbes in the soil.

Mulch is typically a loose, fibrous material. The mulch must allow rain and irrigation water to reach the plant roots.

Different Types of Mulch

- Wood chips
- Fallen leaves
- Grass clippings
- Compost

Benefits of Mulching

- Prevents erosion
- Suppresses weeds
- Retains soil moisture
- Cools the soil in the summer and warms the soil in the winter
- Reduces fertilizer demand as the mulch adds soil nutrients as it breaks down
- Saves diminishing landfill space

To use mulch, apply a 3 to 6 inch layer around trees, shrubs, and within garden beds. It is not recommended to pile the mulch up against tree trunks.

Don't Bag it! Participating in a "Don't Bag It" program or "Grass-cycling" means leaving the grass clippings on your lawn after each mowing. These grass clippings enrich your lawn with important nutrients and reduces the demand on diminishing landfill space.



Street Sweeping

The City of Azle is committed to removing trash and debris from nearby waterways as well as providing clean water for generations to come. By sweeping curb and gutter streets quarterly, many solid pollutants are removed and properly disposed of before they enter into the creeks and lakes. Debris carries fertilizers and insecticides into the water. The debris that does make it into the water forms the sediment that is also detrimental to our lakes. Although leaves are natural, if left to decompose on streets and sidewalks, they can wash into storm drains and eventually into Azle's lakes and streams. Leaves and nutrients over-fertilize lake water and encourage harmful aquatic plants and algae to thrive. This results in undesirable water for swimming and fishing and is harmful to wildlife.

We ask residents to help by removing their vehicles, basketball goals and trash cans during street sweeping. Moving your car off the street on sweep day is very important. Leaving a car parked on the street means that an area of almost 3 car lengths will be left upswept. Street sweepers remove harmful pollutants from the streets once each quarter, but debris collects daily. Street Sweeping will begin the week of October 1, 2017 if the weather permits.

The City of Azle appreciates your patience and cooperation.



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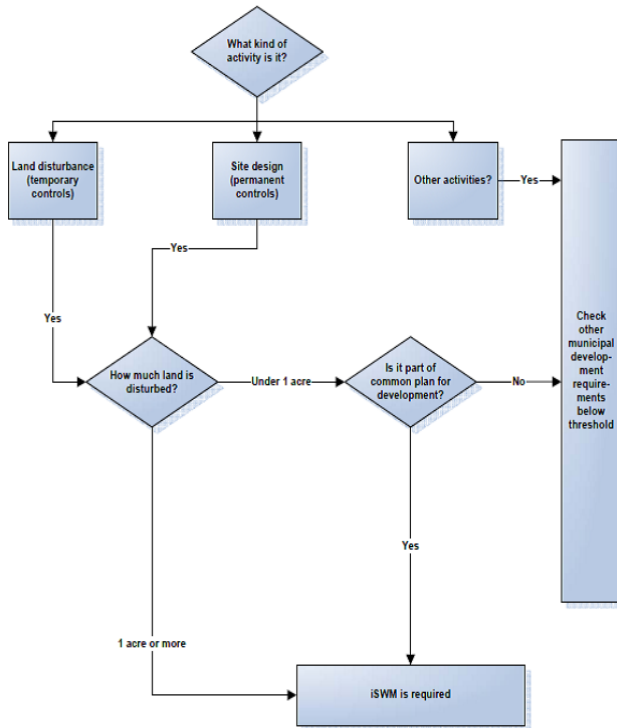


Storm Water Pollution Solutions



Saving and Protecting Your Water

Does iSWM Apply to My Project?



Overview of the iSWM Program

The iSWM Program for Construction and Development is a cooperative initiative that assists municipalities and counties in achieving their goal of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood mitigation, while also helping communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state stormwater permits. Development and redevelopment by their nature increase the amount of imperviousness in our surrounding environment. This increased imperviousness translates into loss of natural areas, more sources for pollution in runoff, and heightened flooding risks. To help mitigate these impacts, more than 60 local governments are cooperating to proactively create sound stormwater management guidance for the region through the “*integrated Stormwater Management*” (iSWM) Program.

Construction Activity Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are measures or practices that are used to minimize the potential for stormwater pollution. Selection and implementation will be unique for each project. BMPs require constant maintenance to remain effective. Changes/repairs to BMPs need to be properly documented on the site map. The following is a list of some commonly used BMPs:

Structural Controls -

Retention Ponds: Permanent structures designed to allow time for sediment to settle and water to infiltrate into the ground. **Temporary Sediment Basins:** Structure designed to detain sediment laden runoff from disturbed areas long enough for sediment to settle out and control the release of stormwater.

Entrance/Exit Controls: Temporary controls, such as rock, used to stabilize the site entrances and exits to reduce the volume of soil transported by trucks and other vehicles onto the adjacent roads.

Silt Fencing: A temporary erosion and sediment control, used to prevent sediment from entering waterways, before bare soil is stabilized by vegetation.

Berms: A temporary erosion and sediment control, that physically prevents runoff from entering nearby waterways.



Erosion and Pollution Controls

Non-Structural Controls -

Stabilization: Techniques such as seeding, sodding, mulching, or stone cover which reduce the erosion of exposed soils and steep grades.

Phased Construction: Scheduling construction to occur in different time frames to minimize the total area cleared or disturbed at any one time.

Good Housekeeping: Techniques such as oil and fuel containment, spill prevention and clean up, routine trash pick up, and street sweeping which help prevent the contamination of stormwater runoff.

The operator is required to minimize off site vehicle tracking of sediments and the generation of dust, including those caused by subcontractors and suppliers.

The operator is required to inspect the site and erosion and sediment controls at a frequency specified by the permit.

The “stormwater pollution prevention plan” (SWP3) must be modified based on the results of inspections. The SWP3 is a living document and must reflect the changes at the site. Any modifications in the site must be documented in the SWP3.

The City of Azle Stormwater Manager routinely conducts inspections at construction sites to ensure the contractors are complying with the SWP3 requirements.

