



Stormwater Pollutant Factsheet

E. coli

E. coli originates in the intestinal tracts of humans, domestic livestock, pets and wildlife. High levels of E. coli are an indicator that harmful bacteria exist in waterways which can endanger human health.

Potential Sources of E. coli

- ◆ Temporary sanitary facilities, such as portable toilets
- ◆ Building features that provide roosting space for birds or other wildlife
- ◆ Leaking or open dumpsters that attract wildlife
- ◆ Pet waste
- ◆ Cross-connections with the sanitary sewer system
- ◆ Leaking sanitary sewer system due to broken or failing pipes
- ◆ Inadequate or incorrectly functioning septic systems

Best Management Practices

- ◆ Maintain an adequately sized dumpster and use a lid to cover it. Keep the area surrounding the dumpster tidy. Check for leaks periodically and make sure it is watertight.
- ◆ Avoid leaving food waste out in the open. Remove wildlife attractants immediately.
- ◆ Avoid feeding wildlife, such as birds or squirrels.
- ◆ Plan structures and buildings such that they do not provide areas for wildlife to roost or hide.
- ◆ Properly maintain portable toilets. Secure them from vandalism by locking doors when not in use and attaching them to a solid fixture, such as a pole.
- ◆ Encourage pet owners to pick up their waste.
- ◆ Inspect outfalls during dry weather to look for flow from sanitary sewer discharges.
- ◆ Properly maintain septic systems.