



City of Cañon City

P.O. Box 1460 – 128 Main St. - Cañon City, CO 81215-1460

(719) 269-9011 Fax: (719) 269-9017

Third Quarter 2016 Stormwater Management Program News



Rain Barrels

As of August 10, 2016, rain barrels will be legal to use in Colorado. House Bill 16-1005 authorizes the collection of rainfall from rooftops. There are several restrictions which must be followed to legally use rain barrels in Colorado:

1. Rain barrels can only be used at single-family residences or multi-family residences with four or fewer units.
2. The maximum number of rain barrels that a residence can use is two, with a combined storage of no more than 110 gallons.
3. The rain barrels can only be used to capture rainwater from rooftop downspouts.
4. The captured rainwater can only be used on the same property from which it was captured.
5. The captured rainwater can only be used for outdoor purposes – watering outdoor lawns, plants or gardens. It **cannot** be used for drinking or other indoor uses.
6. The container used to collect rainwater must have a sealable lid to prevent the rain barrels from becoming mosquito breeding grounds. Although not required by House Bill 16-1005, it is recommended that the rain barrels be completely emptied every month (or less).

For more detailed information please visit the City of Cañon City's website at

http://www.canoncity.org/departments/streets_stormwater_and_engineering/stormwater_construction_and_water_quality.php or pick up an informational flyer from the kiosk in the lobby of City Hall at 128 Main Street.

Stormwater Permit Update

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has issued the final revised General Permit COR090000 Stormwater Discharges Associated With Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), generally referred to as the Phase II General Stormwater Permit. The City of Cañon City has received its new permit, effective July 1, 2016. The permit has been revised to clarify many requirements contained in the previous permit and has added some new requirements, along with a timeline to meet the new requirements. Future editions of this newsletter will discuss the clarifications and changes in greater detail.

Drainage, Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) Permits

With the issuance of the new Phase II General Stormwater Permit, the City of Cañon City has revised its requirements for DESC permits. Under the previous permit, DESC permits were required for detached single-family residential projects less than one acre in size that were part of a larger development or project. This applied to building permits in Dawson Ranch, Four Mile Ranch, Gold Cañon, Skyline Villas PUD and the Elizabeth Street PUD. The new Phase II General Stormwater Permit further clarifies the applicability of permitting to construction activities that result in less than one acre of land disturbance. Part I.E.3. of the permit describes "applicable construction activities" as including those "construction activities that result in a land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre or that is less than one acre, but is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb, or has disturbed since March 2, 2001, one acre or more, unless excluded below **or the disturbed areas have been finally stabilized**" (emphasis added).

As a result of this clarification, DESC permits are no longer required for single-family residential projects that disturb less than an acre for Dawson Ranch, Gold Cañon, Four Mile Ranch and Skyline Villas PUD. DESC permits are still required for the Elizabeth Street PUD and any future subdivisions. **Even though DESC permits are no longer required for the above areas, please note that erosion and sediment control measures are still required during the land disturbance and construction and all projects are still subject to the City of Cañon City's illicit discharge regulations.** Any pollutants coming from a construction site, or failure to implement soil and erosion control best management practices, can result in enforcement actions. For a more detailed fact sheet regarding this change please visit the City of Cañon City's website at <http://www.canoncity.org/newslist.php>.

Disposal of Used Automotive Antifreeze and Oil

The Stormwater Program has been asked to provide a list of area businesses which will take used antifreeze and oil.

Antifreeze:

Penrose Auto Salvage, located at 6256 State Highway 120 in Penrose will take used antifreeze. They will also take used oil. Please contact them at 719-372-6007 for specific requirements and times.

Twin Enviro Services takes both used antifreeze and used oil. It needs to be taken to their offices at 2500 State Highway 67, Penrose, not left out with trash pick-up. The container(s) need to be labeled and the antifreeze or oil cannot be mixed with any other substance.

Oil:

AutoZone and O'Reilly's Auto Parts, both in Cañon City will take only used oil.

Pet Waste:

Stormwater Program personnel have noticed recent comments on-line concerning pet waste on the RiverWalk and in other public places around the City. The comments express concern that citizens are not cleaning up after their pets while enjoying the City's public amenities. We would like to encourage all those who visit the City's beautiful parks and walking/hiking trails to pick up after your pets so that everyone can enjoy these areas. Pet waste needs to be picked up and disposed of in the provided trash cans. Parks and many of the trails have baggie dispensers for this purpose. Pet waste has the potential of being washed into our river and local drainages, polluting the waters we all depend upon for so many uses. Pet waste can contain bacteria which may have harmful effects on our waterways and on those using the waterways, including irrigation ditches and laterals.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips:

Lawn and Garden:

- Compost yard trimmings, food scraps and other organic wastes. Adding the compost you make to soil will increase water retention, help to decrease erosion and keep organic materials out of the landfill.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn when you mow instead of bagging them. The clippings will return nutrients to the soil as they decay instead of taking up space in a landfill. Or you can add them to your compost pile.
- Use pesticides and fertilizer sparingly and follow manufacturer's instructions. For more information on alternative methods of pest control visit: <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/do-you-really-need-use-pesticide>.

Other News:

- The EPA has released The Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS). This on-line tool lets you learn about your watershed and understand more about your water supplier and if there are possible sources of pollution that could impact the community water supply. <http://go.usa.gov/cpmHR>
- EPA's Safer Choice program helps consumers find products that have been evaluated by EPA scientists to ensure they contain ingredients that are safer for both humans and environmental health. <https://go.usa.gov/cs3mA>
- The Girl Scouts have a new Water Drop patch which encourages water stewardship and helps Girl Scouts learn about water quality and protecting the environment. The patch was developed as a joint project by the EPA, NASA, Smithsonian Institution and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capitol.
http://www.gscnc.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-program/kit_patches.html



"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." – John Muir

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either 276-5265 or grdebekker@canoncity.org.