



Managing Street Sweepings

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Local requirements

This fact sheet outlines management options for reuse of street sweepings. Individual cities and counties may have additional requirements such as testing and approval. For more information on local requirements, contact your city authorities or your county solid-waste officer.

Street sweepings are materials such as sand, salt, leaves and debris removed from city streets, parking lots and sidewalks to prevent these materials from being washed into storm sewers and surface waters, and to improve the appearance of public roadways.

Street sweepings are not potentially contaminated materials removed from spill sites, hazardous waste cleanup sites or other contaminated areas. Materials from these sources, whether removed by sweeping or other process, must be tested to determine if they are hazardous. If hazardous, they must be managed according to hazardous waste requirements. If you are working at a spill or cleanup site, contact the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) coordinator assigned to that site for more information.

Reusing Street Sweepings

Test results have shown street sweepings from normal sweeping operations are safe and acceptable for reuse in many areas; however, the following areas **cannot be used** for street sweeping disposal:

- Playgrounds;
- Children's play areas;
- Residential yards;
- Areas where human contact occurs on a continuous basis;
- Areas near drinking water wells;
- Wellhead protection areas for public drinking-water supplies; and
- Sites with karst features, including sinkholes, disappearing streams and caves.

In addition, do not dispose of street

sweepings in or near wetlands or surface water.

Prior to reuse, trash, leaves and other debris must be removed from the sweepings. This removal is often accomplished by screening, but other methods may also be used. Dispose of trash and debris removed from the sweepings by:

- Recycling, such as aluminum cans;
- Composting, such as leaves; or
- Sending to a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSW) immediately after being screened.

Street sweepings that are **not screened** for trash and debris are considered **industrial solid waste** and must be disposed of at a permitted solid waste facility that can accept the waste. Unscreened street sweepings must also be stored in accordance with solid waste storage standards (Minn. R. 7035.2855).

If street sweepings are screened prior to being stockpiled, they are exempt from Minnesota solid waste storage standards. Prior to reuse, screened sweepings must be managed in accordance with Best Management Practices outlined in the site's Industrial Stormwater Permit (if applicable).

Street sweepings can be reused in any of the following ways without MPCA approval, provided that all solid waste has been screened from the sweepings:

1. Mix with new salt/sand mixture for winter application to roads, parking lots or sidewalks. When screening sweepings for reuse in this way, use a smaller mesh like a ¾-inch screen, for the final

screening to ensure all of the debris has been removed.

2. Use as daily cover material at a permitted solid waste landfill, provided that the landfill is approved to use street sweepings as Alternate Daily Cover (ADC). Contact the permitted landfill prior to transportation to ensure that it can be accepted for disposal, or used as ADC.

3. Use as material in commercial and industrial development projects, road restoration or construction projects. When reusing sweepings as fill, ensure the separation distances given in Table 1 are maintained. Also, check to see if local regulations limit the depth of the fill that may be applied. It is the MPCA’s intention that the fill will be used for an engineered purpose. Otherwise this use would be considered disposal of a solid waste without a permit. To prevent erosion, seed the area with a grass mixture and/or cover with mulch or other cover material within the time frames given in Table 2.

For More Information

A report entitled, “Best Practices: Street Sweepings,” which provides information on efficient and economical ways to conduct sweeping operations, is available from the Metropolitan Council. To request a copy, call the Metropolitan Council Datacenter at 651-602-1140 or send an email to data.center@metc.state.mn.us.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also offers information on Best Management Practices at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=99>. You may also go to www.epa.gov/npdes, click on “stormwater,” then on “National Menu of BMPs,” and search for “Parking Lot and Street Cleaning.”

In addition, the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Report includes information on street sweeping policies and using street sweeping as a tool to improve water quality. ([Street Sweeping Report from Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District](#))

If you have questions about management issues, call the appropriate number listed in Table 3.

This fact sheet has been prepared in cooperation with:

- Metropolitan County Hazardous Waste Staff
- Minnesota Technical Assistance Program
- MPCA Industrial/Municipal Division

Table 1: Separation Distances for Using Sweepings as Fill

Sweepings Applied Near:	Must be Applied No Closer Than:
Lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, intermittent streams, tile inlets, and karst features	200 feet
Groundwater	3 feet
Fractured bedrock	3 feet
Potable water wells	50 feet

Table 2: Requirements for Cover Material

Slope (Horizontal to Vertical)	Seed/Cover within:
Steeper than 3:1	7 days
Between 10 :1 and 3:1	14 days
Flatter than 10:1	21 days

Table 3: Telephone Contacts in the Metro Area

Anoka County	(763) 323-5730
Carver County	(952) 361-1500
Dakota County	(952) 891-7000
Hennepin County	(612) 348-3000
Ramsey County	(651) 266-8500
Scott County	(952) 445-7750
Washington County	(612) 430-6000

Table 4: MPCA Regional Offices

Brainerd	(218) 828-2492
Detroit Lakes	(218) 847-1519
Duluth	(218) 723-4660
Mankato	(507) 389-5977
Marshall	(507) 537-7146
Rochester	(507) 285-7343
St. Paul	(651) 296-6300
Willmar	(320) 214-3786