



BROWN AND
CALDWELL

The importance of using BMPs in the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin

1 Who is the Authority?

The Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority (Authority) promotes water quality protection in the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin for the benefit of the public for recreation, fisheries, drinking water supplies, and other beneficial uses. The Authority implements water quality plans to achieve and maintain water quality standards under the State's *Cherry Creek Reservoir Control Regulation*.

The Authority implements requirements for point sources and stormwater, including efforts such as constructing pollutant reduction facilities, promoting Smart Growth for Clean Water initiatives, information and education programs within the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin, and addressing point source and stormwater pollutant impacts through a big-picture watershed plan. In addition, one of the Authority's tasks is to serve as a referral agency that reviews land use applications for development within the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin.

2 What is good water quality?

- ◆ Supports designated beneficial water uses, such as recreation, fisheries, drinking water supply.
- ◆ Complies with water quality standards for the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin.



*Photos courtesy of Gay Barnhart

3 How do we maintain good water quality in the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin?

Best management practice = things we can do or build to maintain or improve water quality

Use BMPs to reduce pollutants from wastewater treatment plants (point sources).

Use BMPs to reduce pollutants and sediment from urban areas; manage stormwater runoff.

Construct special projects to reduce pollutants.

Participate in education programs.



Apply regional approaches through intergovernmental agreements.

Partner with State and Federal agencies.

Maintain open space.

Preserve and restore stream corridors.

Seek Smart Growth for Clean Water opportunities for minimum impact development.

4 Why support BMPs?

- BMPs promote water quality so that beneficial uses can be enjoyed.
- BMPs protect aquatic life in Cherry Creek Reservoir.
- BMPs promote good water quality and a healthy reservoir is an asset to all Colorado residents, and a source of pride to residents of the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin.
- BMPs help meet water quality requirements and comply with the *Cherry Creek Reservoir Control Regulation*, as well as NPDES Phase II requirements.

5 What can I do at my place of business?

(text adapted from Environmental Protection Agency materials, www.epa.gov)

Everyday activities contribute to non-point source pollution. By taking a few precautions and by changing our habits in small but noticeable ways, we can all make a difference and be part of the clean water solution. Here is a list of things you can do to help reduce water pollution:

➤ Be aware that your actions have an impact.

During storm events, the large areas of impervious surfaces (your paved parking lot, roads, building rooftops) in urban areas cause less water to soak into the ground and an increase in stormwater runoff to drainage ditches, streams, lakes and retention ponds. The remnants of your daily activities are carried by the runoff directly to streams or lakes.



- Minimize landscape fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use; use organic products, if possible.
- Keep Dumpsters and other containers closed; store containers under cover.
- Cover stockpiled materials with plastic and store up and away from contact with stormwater.
- Pick up and properly dispose of spills, litter and debris; do not wash it into the storm drain.
- Educate staff to recognize suspected cross-connections between the sanitary sewer system and the storm drain system. Make sure the right stuff goes in the right drain!
- Report illegal dumping or unusual conditions along flow lines to inlets, storm drains or drainageways. **When the only thing going into the storm drain is stormwater, you have minimized potential for pollution from your facility.**

Additional Resources

...getting informed about local activities

Center for Watershed Protection
www.stormwatercenter.net/
 Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
www.cherry-creek.org/ 303-291-7437
 Colorado Watershed Network
www.coloradowatershed.org/ 303-291-7437
 Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
www.udfcd.org/ 303-455-6277
 Arapahoe County/Centennial Public Works
www.co.arapahoe.co.us/ 720-874-6500

...more tips on what you can do at your place of business

Environmental Protection Agency Region 8
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/>
 CDPHE Pollution Prevention Program
www.cdphe.state.co.us/el/elp_p2hom.asp
 CDPHE Small Business Assistance Program
www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/sbap.asp
 Tri-County Health Environmental Services
<http://www.tchd.org/environmental.html>
 General Recycling information
www.earth911.com

This fact sheet is part of **The BMP Series**, a program developed by the Authority to provide education on BMP requirements within the Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin.
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