



**Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency**

Managing Street Sweepings

Hazardous Waste Division Fact Sheet #4.54 September 1997

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.

What are *Street Sweepings*?

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 or not they are removed by a sweeping 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.

- areas near drinking water wells, and
- wellhead protection areas for public drinking-water supplies.

In addition, do not dispose of street sweepings in or near wetlands or water.

Prior to reuse, trash, leaves and other debris should be removed from the sweepings (this is often accomplished by screening, but other methods may also be used). Dispose of trash and debris removed from the sweepings by recycling (aluminum cans, etc.), composting (leaves, etc.), or sending to a sanitary landfill.

If you are storing sweepings prior to reuse, cover them with a plastic tarp or other covering to prevent erosion.

Street sweepings can often be successfully reused in any of the following ways:

Reusing Street Sweepings

Although test results have shown street sweepings from normal sweeping operations are safe and acceptable for reuse in many areas, as a precaution, MPCA staff recommends sweepings **not be used** in these areas:

- playgrounds,
- children's play areas,
- residential yards,
- areas where human contact occurs on a continuous basis,

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 for the final screening to ensure all of the larger debris has been removed. (A 3/4-inch mesh will screen out much of the debris.)
2. Use as daily cover material on landfills. When reusing sweepings as cover material, the MPCA recommends only using

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them on sanitary or demolition landfills that have ground-water monitoring systems.

3. Use as clean fill material in commercial and industrial development projects, road restoration or construction, or natural park lands. 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. 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.

Table 1: Separation Distances for Using Sweepings as Fill

Sweepings Applied Near:	Must be Applied No Closer Than:
Surface water/wetlands	100 feet
Streets/sidewalks/other drainage ways	100 feet
Groundwater	3 feet
Fractured bedrock	10 feet

Table 2: Requirements for Cover Material

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

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 (612) 291-6359.

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

Table 3: Phone Contacts

In the Metro Area	Telephone
Anoka County	(612) 422-7063
Carver County	(612) 361-1800
Dakota County	(612) 891-7011
Hennepin County	(612) 348-8100
Ramsey County	(612) 773-4466
Scott County	(612) 496-8473
Washington County	(612) 430-6655
MPCA--Solid Waste	(612) 296-7227 (612) 296-8621
In Greater Minnesota	Telephone
Hazardous Waste	(612) 297-8330 (800) 657-3724
Solid Waste:	
Brainerd Regional Office	(218) 828-2492
Detroit Lakes Regional Office	(218) 847-1519
Duluth Regional Office	(218) 723-4660
Marshall Regional Office	(507) 537-7146
Rochester Regional Office	(507) 285-7343
All Regional Offices	(800) 657-3864
Water Quality/Storm Water	(612) 296-6575
MPCA - TDD Users	(612) 282-5332 (800) 657-3864

This fact sheet has been prepared in cooperation with:

- Metropolitan County Hazardous Waste Staff
- Minnesota Technical Assistance Program
- MPCA Ground Water/Solid Waste Division
- MPCA Water Quality Division