



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 SmartGrowth 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 Gary Barnhart

3 How do you 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.

Education programs.



Apply regional approaches through intergovernmental agreements.

Partner with State and Federal agencies.

Maintain open space.

Preserve and restore stream corridors.

Encourage Smart Growth 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 home?

(text adapted from the Denver Division of Environmental Protection, www.denvergov.org/Environmental_Protection/)

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 our actions have an impact.**

During storm events, the large areas of impervious surfaces (paved parking lots, roads, 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 our daily activities are carried by the runoff directly to streams or lakes.



- Minimize fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use; use organic products when possible.
- Properly dispose of motor oil, antifreeze, and other household hazardous wastes.
- Don't over-irrigate the lawn; consider xeriscape options.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.
- Buy detergent free of phosphorus (phosphate, orthophosphate).
- Wash the car at a commercial car wash.
- Report illegal dumping or unusual conditions in lakes or streams or drainageways.

Many local governments have **disposal programs for hazardous wastes**, as well as **hotlines** for reporting suspicious activities.

Call and find out what you can do!

Additional Resources

getting informed about local activities

Center for Watershed Protection
www.stormwatercenter.net/
 (getting involved on a more technical level with stormwater management)

Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
www.cherry-creek.org/ 303-291-7437

Colorado Watershed Network
www.coloradowatershed.org/

Trust for Public Land, Legacy Grant
www.tpl.org/ 303-837-1414

Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
www.udfcd.org/ 303-455-6277

more tips on what you can do at home

Colorado State University Extension Service
<http://www.cerc.colostate.edu/bargains.html>

Denver City and County 303-446-3671
<http://www.denvergov.org/WMDWaterQuality/>
 (select Clear Choices for Clean Water)

Environmental Protection Agency Region 8
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/>

River Smart
<http://www.riversmart.org>

Tri-County Health Environmental Services
<http://www.tchd.org/environmental.html>

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.

Authority manager:
 303-779-4525