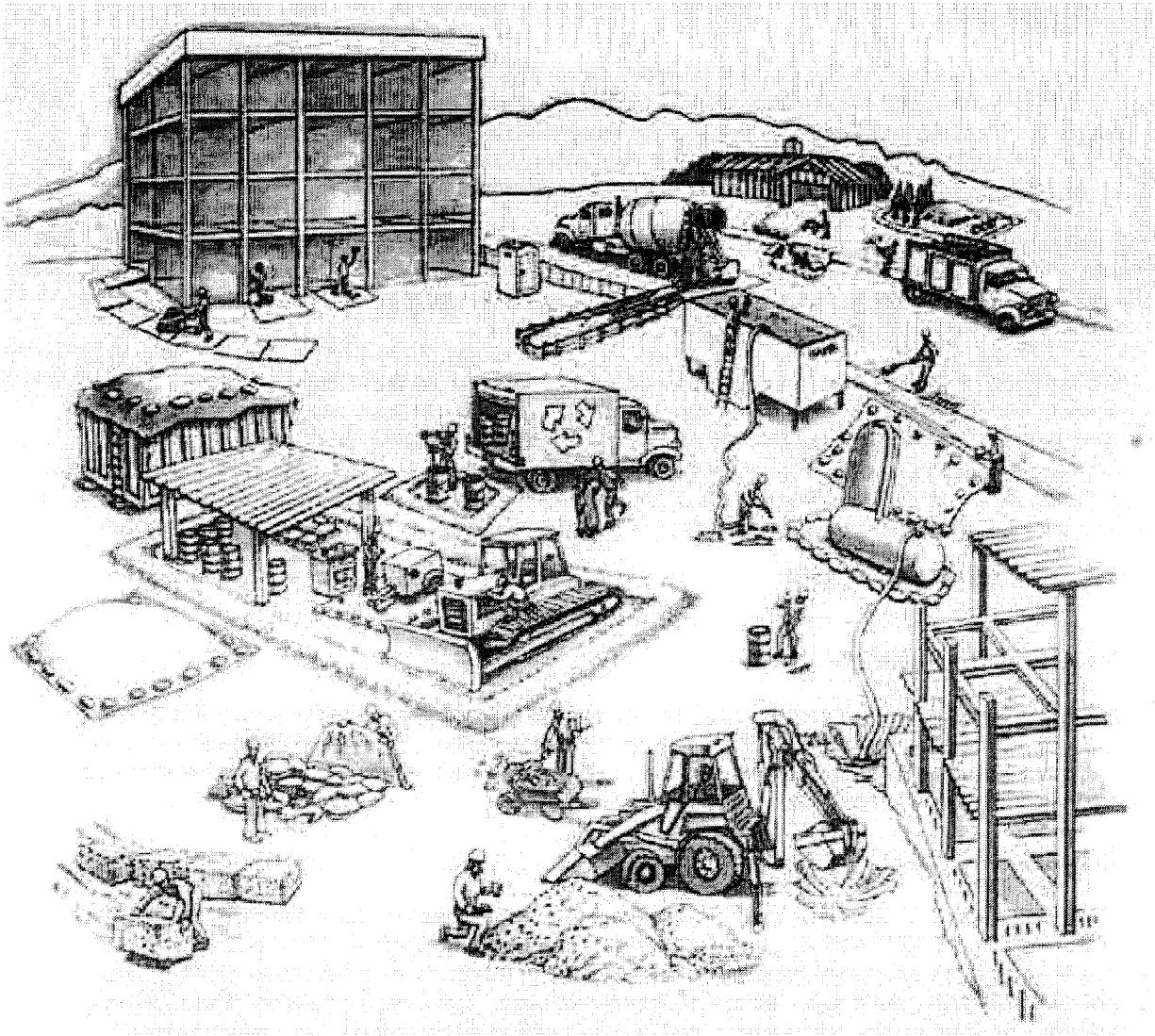


6. Blueprint for a Clean Ocean

Blueprint for a Clean Ocean

Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution from Construction-Related Activities



Introduction

Stormwater pollution is rapidly growing in importance as a national environmental issue. In California, stormwater pollution is a major source of water pollution. To help combat the problems of stormwater pollution, federal and state governments have developed a program for monitoring and permitting discharges to municipal storm drain systems, creeks, and water bodies such as the Pacific Ocean.

Municipalities in the Orange County Area are required by the Clean Water Act to develop stormwater management programs that include requirements for construction activities. Your construction project will need to comply with local municipal requirements. If your construction activity will disturb five acres or more, you must also obtain coverage under the General Construction Activity Permit (see Requirements for Dischargers).

Blueprint for a Clean Ocean is an introductory guide to stormwater quality control on construction sites. It contains several principles and techniques that you can use to help prevent stormwater pollution. This booklet has been developed as a resource for all general contractors, home builders, and subcontractors working on construction sites.

Blueprint for a Clean Ocean is not a design manual or a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (see Requirements for Dischargers). For more information on the General Permit, designing stormwater quality controls, or producing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, please refer to the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity, or consult your local program or the SWRCB (see below). Please note that this booklet is concerned only with the management of construction sites and activities during construction.

Stormwater Pollution

Storm Drain System

Stormwater or runoff from sources like sprinklers and hoses flows over the ground into the storm drain system. In the Orange County Area, storm drain systems consist of gutters, storm drains, underground pipes, open channels, culverts, and creeks. Storm drain systems are designed to drain directly to the Pacific Ocean with no treatment.

Pollution From Construction Sites

Stormwater runoff is part of a natural hydrologic process. However, land development and construction activities can significantly alter natural drainage patterns and pollute stormwater runoff. Runoff picks up pollutants as it flows over the ground or paved areas and carries these pollutants into the storm drain system. Common sources of pollutants from construction sites include: sediments from soil erosion; construction materials and waste (e.g., paint, solvents, concrete, drywall); landscaping runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides; and spilled oil, fuel, and other fluids from construction vehicles and heavy equipment.

Adverse Effects from Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater pollution is a major source of water pollution in California. It can cause declines in fisheries, disrupt habitats, and limit water recreation activities. Even more importantly, stormwater pollution poses a serious threat to the overall health of the ecosystem.

For more information on stormwater requirements, call the State Water Resources Control Boards Stormwater Information Line at (916) 657-1146 or your local program.

Requirements for Dischargers

Municipal Stormwater Program

Municipalities in the Los Angeles Area are required by federal regulations to develop programs to control the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system, including the discharge of pollutants from construction sites and areas of new development or significant redevelopment. As a result, your development and construction projects may be subject to new requirements designed to improve stormwater quality such as, expanded plan check and review, new contract specifications, and increased site inspection. For more information on municipal requirements, please contact the municipal representative listed on the back cover of this booklet.

Projects Equal To Or Greater Than 1 Acres

If your construction activity will disturb one acre or more, you must obtain coverage under the General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit (General Construction Permit) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for stormwater discharges associated with construction activity. To obtain coverage under the General Permit, a Notice of Intent (NOI) must be filed with the SWRCB. The General Construction Permit requires you to prepare and carry out a "Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan" or SWPPP. Your SWPPP must identify appropriate stormwater pollution prevention measures or best management practices (BMPs), like the ones described in this booklet, to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site both during and after construction is completed. A best management practice or BMP is defined as any program, technology, process, practice, operating method, measure, or device which controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution.

Projects Less Than 1 Acre

If your project is less than one acre, you may still need to use BMPs to comply with local municipal requirements. Check with the local planning or engineering department for details.

Best Management Practices

General Practices

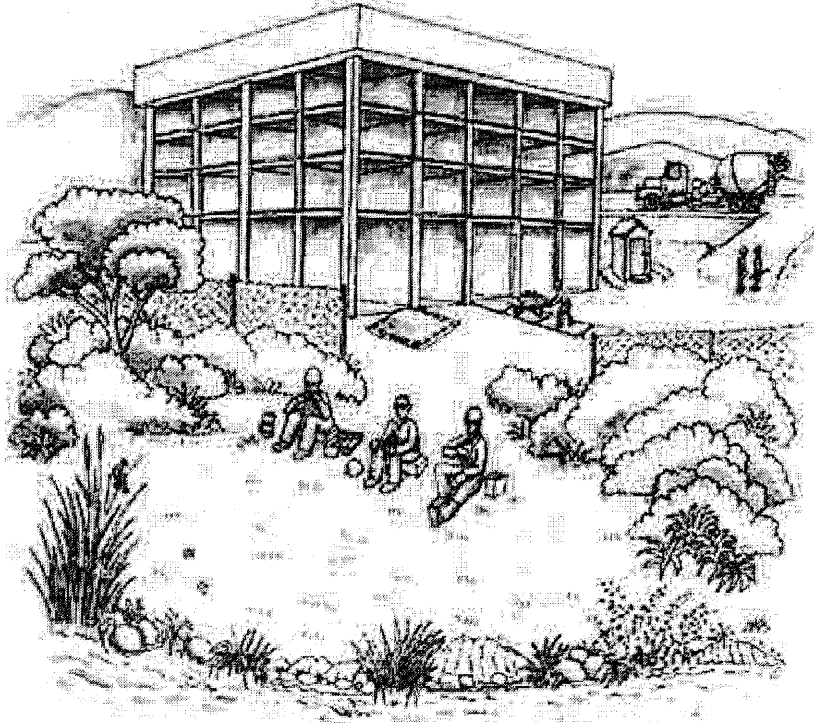
The following are some general principles that can significantly reduce pollution from construction activity and help make compliance with stormwater regulations easy:

- Identify all storm drains, drainage swales and creeks located near the construction site and make sure all subcontractors are aware of their locations to prevent pollutants from entering them.
- Clean up leaks, drips, and other spills immediately so they do not contact stormwater.
- Refuel vehicles and heavy equipment in one designated location on the site and take care to clean up spills immediately.
- Wash vehicles at an appropriate off-site facility. If equipment must be washed on-site, do not use soaps, solvents, degreasers, or steam cleaning equipment, and prevent wash water from entering the storm drain. If possible, direct wash water to a low point where it can evaporate and/or infiltrate.
- Never wash down pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.

- Avoid contaminating clean runoff from areas adjacent to your site by using berms and/or temporary or permanent drainage ditches to divert water flow around the site. Reduce stormwater runoff velocities by constructing temporary check dams and/or berms where appropriate.
- Protect all storm drain inlets using filter fabric cloth or other best management practices to prevent sediments from entering the storm drainage system during construction activities.
- Keep materials out of the rain - prevent runoff pollution at the source. Schedule clearing or heavy earth moving activities for periods of dry weather. Cover exposed piles of soil, construction materials and wastes with plastic sheeting or temporary roofs. Before it rains, sweep and remove materials from surfaces that drain to storm drains, creeks, or channels.

For more information on the General Permits, call the State Water Resources Control Board's Stormwater Information Line at (916) 657-1146 or your local program.

- Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces. Place trash cans around the site to reduce litter. Dispose of non-hazardous construction wastes in covered dumpsters or recycling receptacles.
- Practice source reduction - reduce waste by ordering only the amount you need to finish the job.
- Do not over-apply pesticides or fertilizers and follow manufacturers instructions for mixing and applying materials.
- Recycle leftover materials whenever possible. Materials such as concrete, asphalt, scrap metal, solvents, degreasers, cleared vegetation, paper, rock, and vehicle maintenance materials such as used oil, antifreeze, batteries, and tires are recyclable.
- Dispose of all wastes properly. Materials that cannot be reused or recycled must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste. Never throw debris into channels, creeks or into wetland areas. Never store or leave debris in the street or near a creek where it may contact runoff.
- Illegal dumping is a violation subject to a fine and/or time in jail. Be sure that trailers carrying your materials are covered during transit. If not, the hauler may be cited and fined.
- Train your employees and inform subcontractors about the stormwater requirements and their own responsibilities.



Specific Practices

Following is a summary of specific best management practices for erosion and sediment control and contractor activities. For more information on erosion and sediment control BMPs and their design, please refer to the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity (2003).

Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control

Prevent erosion

Soil erosion is the process by which soil particles are removed from the land surface, by wind, water and/or gravity. Soil particles removed by stormwater runoff are pollutants that when deposited in local creeks, lakes, and the Pacific Ocean, can have negative impacts on aquatic habitat. Exposed soil after clearing, grading, or excavation is easily eroded by wind or water. The following practices will help prevent erosion from occurring on the construction site:

- Plan the development to fit the topography, soils, drainage pattern and natural vegetation of the site.
- Delineate clearing limits, easements, setbacks, sensitive or critical areas, trees, drainage courses, and buffer zones to prevent excessive or unnecessary disturbances and exposure.
- Phase grading operations to reduce disturbed areas and time of exposure.
- Avoid excavation and grading during wet weather.
- Limit on-site construction routes and stabilize construction entrance(s).
- Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary.

- Construct diversion dikes and drainage swales to channel runoff around the site.
- Use berms and drainage ditches to divert runoff around exposed areas. Place diversion ditches across the top of cut slopes
- Plant vegetation on exposed slopes. Where replanting is not feasible, use erosion control blankets (e.g., jute or straw matting, glass fiber or excelsior matting, mulch netting).
- Consider slope terracing with cross drains to increase soil stability.
- Cover stockpiled soil and landscaping materials with secured plastic sheeting and divert runoff around them.
- As a back-up measure, protect drainage courses, creeks, or catch basins with straw bales, silt fences and/or temporary drainage swales.
- Once grading is completed, stabilize the disturbed areas using permanent vegetation as soon as possible.
- Conduct routine inspections of erosion control measures especially before and immediately after rainstorms, and repair if necessary.

Control sediment

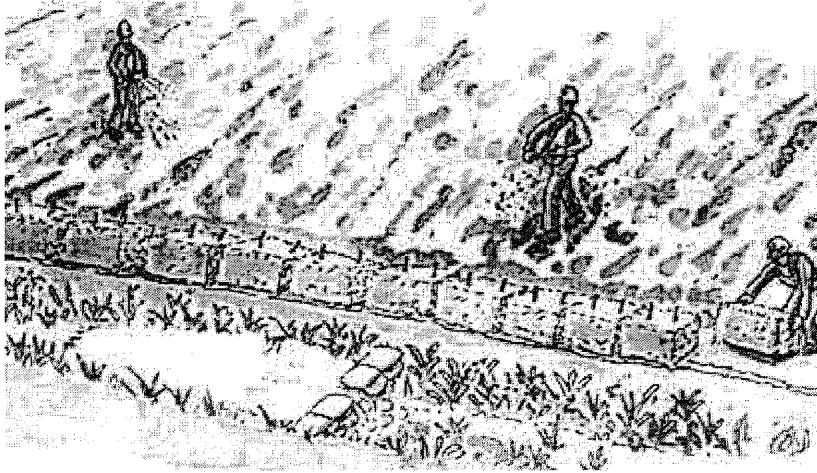
Sedimentation is defined as the process of depositing sediments picked up by runoff. Sediments consist of soil particles, clays, sands, and other minerals. The purpose of sediment control practices is to remove sediments from stormwater before they are transported off-site or reach a storm drain inlet or nearby creek. The most effective sediment control practices reduce runoff velocity and trap or detain runoff allowing sediments to settle out.

- Use terracing, rip rap, sand bags, rocks, straw bales, and/or temporary vegetation on slopes to reduce runoff velocity and trap sediments. Do not use asphalt rubble or other demolition debris for this purpose.
- Use check dams in temporary drains and swales to reduce runoff velocity and promote sedimentation.
- Protect storm drain inlets from sediment-laden runoff. Storm drain inlet protection devices include sand bag barriers, filter fabric fences, block and gravel filters, and excavated drop inlet sediment traps.
- Collect and detain sediment-laden runoff in sediment traps (an excavated or bermed area or constructed device) to allow sediments to settle out prior to discharge.
- Use sediment controls and filtration to remove sediments from water generated by dewatering.
- Prevent construction vehicle tires from tracking soil onto adjacent streets by constructing a temporary stone pad with a filter fabric underliner near the site exit where dirt and mud can be removed.
- When cleaning sediments from streets, driveways and paved areas on construction sites, use dry sweeping methods where possible. If water must be used to flush pavement, collect runoff to settle out sediments and protect storm drain inlets.

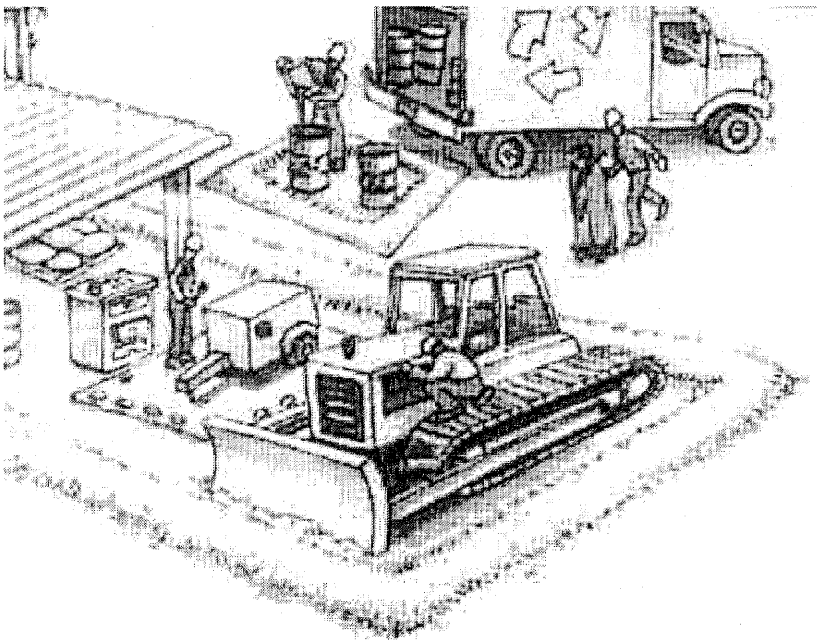
Note: Performance of erosion and sediment controls is dependent on proper installation, routine inspections and maintenance of the controls. Most of the BMPs described above are temporary

and if left alone can quickly fall into disrepair and/or become ineffective. Routine inspections and maintenance, particularly before and after a storm event, must be Part of erosion and sediment control plan.

The California Storm Water Best Management Practices Handbook for Construction Activity provides specific details and design criteria for erosion and sediment control plans.



Drainage swales channel runoff around a construction site. Planting temporary vegetation on freshly graded areas, and trenching and staking straw bales and/or silt fences downslope are common techniques for preventing erosion and controlling sediment.



Make sure equipment repair area is bermed or well away from creeks and storm drains.

General Site Maintenance

Prevent spills and leaks

Poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel, oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the construction site are common sources of stormwater pollution and soil contamination. Construction material spills can also cause serious problems. Careful site planning, preventive maintenance, and good materials handling practices can eliminate most spills and leaks.

- Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently for and repair leaks.
- Designate specific areas of the construction site, well away from creeks or storm drain inlets, auto and equipment parking and routine vehicle and equipment maintenance.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs and vehicle and equipment washing off-site when feasible, or in designated and controlled areas on-site.
- If you must drain and replace motor oil, radiator coolant, or other fluids on-site, use drip pans or drop cloths to catch drips and spills. Collect all spent fluids, store in labeled separate containers, and recycle whenever possible. Note that in order to be recyclable, such liquids must not be mixed with other fluids. Non-recycled fluids generally must be disposed of as hazardous wastes.

Clean up spills immediately after they happen

When vehicle fluids or materials such as paints or solvents are spilled, cleanup should be immediate, automatic, and routine.

- Sweep up spilled dry materials (e.g., cement, mortar, or fertilizer) immediately. Never attempt to "wash them away" with water, or bury them. Use only minimal water for dust control.
- Clean up liquid spills on paved or impermeable surfaces using "dry" cleanup methods (e.g., absorbent materials like cat litter, sand or rags).
- Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of the contaminated soil.
- Report significant spills to the appropriate spill response agencies immediately (See reference list on the back cover of this booklet for more information).



Clean up spills on dirt areas by removing contaminated soil.

Note: Used cleanup rags that have absorbed hazardous materials must either be sent to a certified industrial laundry or dry cleaner, or disposed of through a licensed hazardous waste disposal company.

Store materials under cover

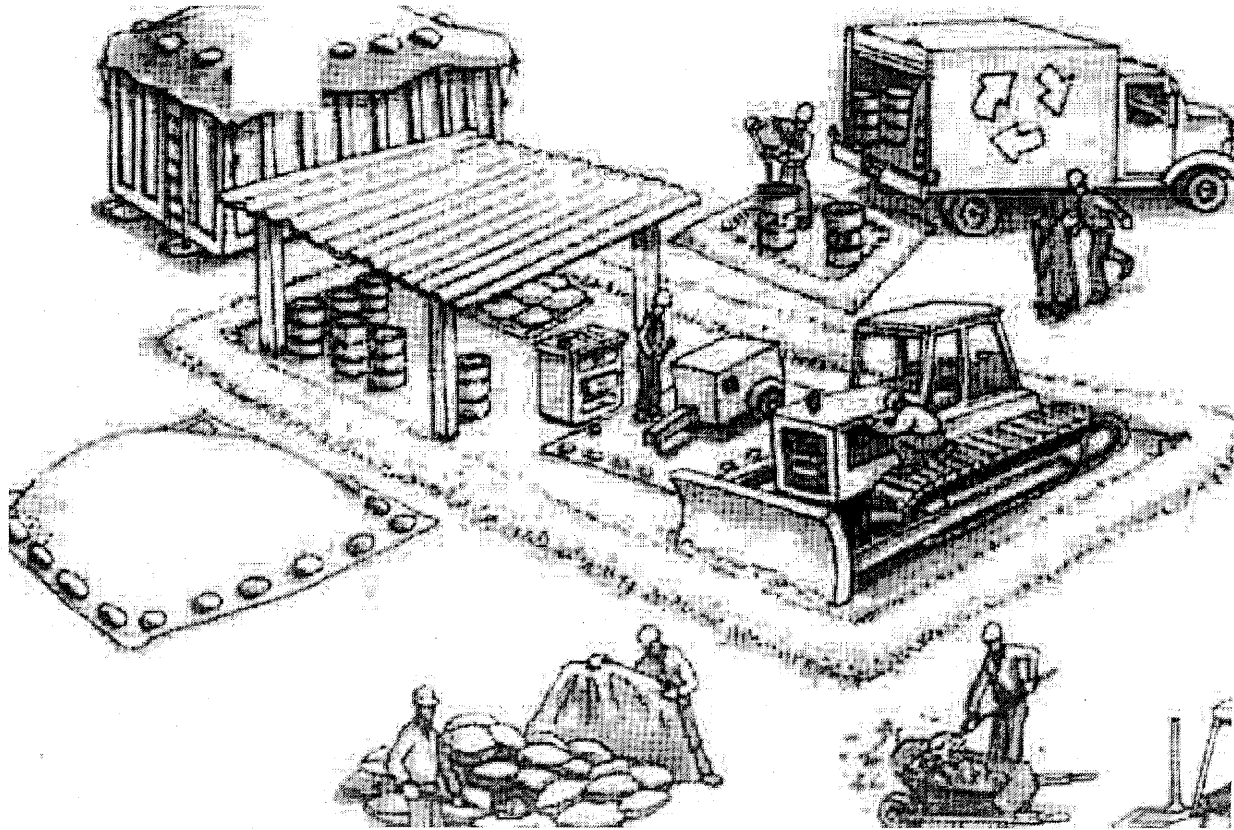
Wet and dry building materials with the potential to pollute runoff should be stored under cover and/or surrounded by berms when rain is forecast or during wet weather.

- Store stockpiled materials and wastes under a temporary roof or secured plastic sheeting or tarp.
- Berm around storage areas to prevent contact with runoff.
- Plaster or other powders can create large quantities of suspended solids in runoff, which may be toxic to aquatic life and cause serious environmental harm even if the materials are inert. Store all such potentially polluting dry materials -especially open bags- under a temporary roof or inside a building, or cover securely with an impermeable tarp. By storing dry materials under a roof, you may also help protect air quality, as well as water quality.
- Store containers of paints, chemicals, solvents, and other hazardous materials in accordance with secondary containment regulations and under cover during rainy periods.

Cover and maintain dumpsters

Open or leaking dumpsters can be a source of stormwater pollution.

- Cover open dumpsters with plastic sheeting or a tarp during rainy weather. Secure the sheeting or tarp around the outside of the dumpster. If your dumpster has a cover, close it.
- If a dumpster is leaking, contain and collect leaking material. Return the dumpster to the leasing company for repair/exchange.
- Do not clean dumpsters on-site. Return to leasing company for periodic cleaning, if necessary.



Store building materials under cover. Make sure dumpsters are properly covered to keep out rain.

Collect and properly dispose of paint removal wastes

Paint removal wastes include chemical paint stripping residues, paint chips and dust, sand blasting material and wash water. These wastes contain chemicals that are harmful to the wildlife in our creeks and the water bodies they flow to. Keep all paint wastes away from the gutter, street, and storm drains.

- Non-hazardous paint chips and dust from dry stripping and sand blasting may be swept up or collected in plastic drop cloths and disposed of as trash. Chemical paint stripping residue and chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin must be disposed of as a hazardous waste.
- When stripping or cleaning building exteriors with high-pressure water, cover or berm storm drain inlets. If possible (and allowed by your local wastewater treatment plant), collect (mop or vacuum) building cleaning water and discharge to the sanitary sewer. Alternatively, discharge non-contaminated wash water onto a dirt area and spade into the soil. Be sure to shovel or sweep up any debris that remains in the gutter and dispose of as garbage.

Clean up paints, solvents, adhesives, and cleaning solutions properly

Although many paint materials can and should be recycled, liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes. When they are thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags, absorbent materials, and drop cloths are no longer hazardous and may be disposed of as garbage.

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or creek.

- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible and rinse to a drain leading to the sanitary sewer (i.e., indoor plumbing).
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of unusable thinners and residue as hazardous waste.
- Recycle, return to supplier or donate unwanted water-based (latex) paint. You may be able to recycle clean empty dry paint cans as metal.
- Dried latex paint may be disposed of in the garbage.
- Unwanted paint (that is not recycled), thinners, and sludges must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- More and more paint companies are recycling excess latex paint (See separate list of "Recyclers and Disposal Services" for more information).

Keep fresh concrete and cement mortars out of gutters, storm drains, and creeks

Concrete and cement-related mortars that wash into gutters and storm drains are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment.

- Avoid mixing excess amounts of fresh concrete or cement mortar on-site.
- Store dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff.
- Wash out concrete transit mixers only in designated wash-out areas where the water will flow into settling ponds or onto dirt or stockpiles of aggregate base or sand. Pump water from settling ponds to the sanitary sewer, where allowed. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse. Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, or creeks.
- Whenever possible, return contents of mixer barrel to the yard for recycling. Dispose of small amounts of excess concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.

Service and maintain portable toilets

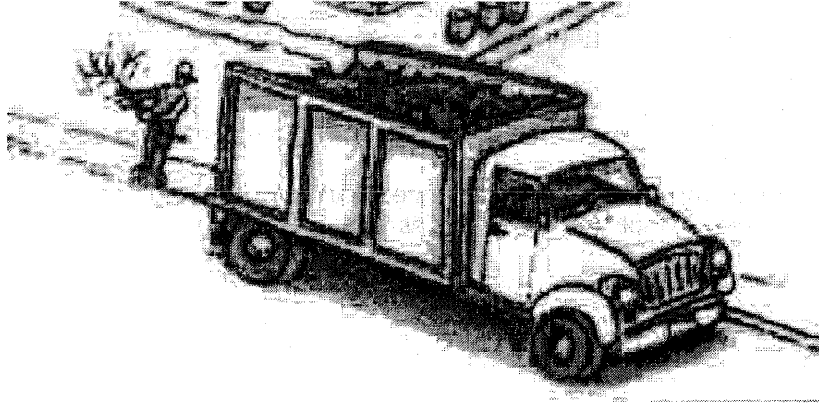
Leaking portable toilets are a potential health and environmental hazard.

- Inspect portable toilets for leaks.
- Be sure the leasing company adequately maintains, promptly repairs, and replaces units as needed.
- The leasing company must have a permit to dispose of waste to the sanitary sewer.

Dispose of cleared vegetation properly

Cleared vegetation, tree trimmings, and other plant material can cause environmental damage if it gets into creeks. Such "organic" material requires large quantities of oxygen to decompose, which reduces the oxygen available to fishes and other aquatic life.

- Do not dispose of plant material in a creek or drainage facility or leave it in a roadway where it can clog storm drain inlets.
- Avoid disposal of plant material in trash dumpsters or mixing it with other wastes. Compost plant material or take it to a landfill or other facility that composts yard waste.



Recycle yard waste and tree prunings at a landfill that chips and composts plant material.

Demolition Waste Management

Make sure all demolition waste is properly disposed of

- Demolition debris that is left in the street or pushed over a bank into a creek bed or drainage facility causes serious problems for flood control, storm drain maintenance, and the health of our environment. Different types of materials have different disposal requirements or recycling options.
- Materials that can be recycled from demolition projects include: metal framing, wood, concrete, asphalt, and plate glass.
- Materials that can be salvaged for reuse from old structures include: doors, banisters, floorboards, windows, 2x4s, and other old, dense lumber.
- Unusable, unrecycleable debris should be confined to dumpsters, covered at night and during wet weather, and taken to a landfill for disposal.
- Hazardous debris such as asbestos must be handled in accordance with specific laws and regulations and disposed of as a hazardous waste. For more information of asbestos handling and disposal regulations, contact the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
- Arrange for an adequate debris disposal schedule to insure that dumpsters do not overflow.

Roadwork and Pavement Construction

Plan roadwork and pavement construction to avoid stormwater pollution

Road paving, surfacing, and asphalt removal happen right in the street, with numerous opportunities for stormwater pollution from the asphalt mix, saw-cut slurry, or excavated material. Properly proportioned asphalt mix and well-compacted pavement avoid a host of water pollution problems.

- Apply concrete, asphalt, and seal coat during dry weather to prevent contaminants from contacting stormwater runoff.

- Cover storm drain inlets and manholes when paving or applying seal coat, slurry seal, fog seal, etc.
- Always park paving machines over drip pans or absorbent materials, since they tend to drip continuously.
- When making saw-cuts in pavement, use as little water as possible. Cover each catch basin completely with filter fabric during the sawing operation and contain the slurry by placing straw bales, sand bags, or gravel dams around the catch basin. After the liquid drains or evaporates, shovel or vacuum the slurry residue from the pavement or gutter and remove from site.
- Wash down exposed aggregate concrete only when the wash water can: (1) flow onto a dirt area; (2) drain onto a bermed surface from which it can be pumped and disposed of properly; or (3) be vacuumed from a catchment created by blocking a storm drain inlet. If necessary, place straw bales downslope, or divert runoff with temporary berms. Make sure runoff does not reach gutters or storm drains.
- Allow aggregate rinse to settle, and pump the water to the sanitary sewer if allowed by your local wastewater authority.
- Never wash sweepings from exposed aggregate concrete into a street or storm drain. Collect and return to aggregate base stockpile, or dispose with trash.
- Recycle broken concrete and asphalt.

Contaminated Poned Stormwater, Groundwater, and Soil Guidance

Look for ponded stormwater, groundwater, and/or soil contamination

Ponded stormwater, groundwater and soil may become contaminated if exposed to hazardous materials. If any of the following conditions apply, contaminated ponded stormwater, groundwater, and/or soil may be present and pose a potential health and environmental hazard:

- The project site is in an area of previous commercial/industrial activity;
- There is a history of illegal dumping on the site or adjacent properties;
- The construction site is subject to a Superfund, state, or local cleanup order;
- Ponded stormwater, groundwater and/or water generated by dewatering exhibits an oily-sheen and/or smells of petroleum;
- Soil appears discolored, smells of petroleum and/or exhibits other unusual properties;
- Abandoned underground storage tanks, drums, or other buried debris are encountered during construction activities; or
- Spills have occurred on the site or adjacent properties involving pesticides and herbicides; fertilizers; detergents; plaster and other products; petroleum products such as fuel, oil, and grease; or other hazardous chemicals such as acids, lime, glues, paints, solvents, and curing compounds.

Take appropriate action

Ponded stormwater, groundwater, or water generated by dewatering that is contaminated cannot be discharged to a street, gutter, or storm drain. If contamination is suspected, the water should be contained and held for testing. Call the appropriate local agency and/or the Regional Water Quality Control Board for further guidance (See reference list on the back cover of this booklet for more information).

Remember: The property owner and the contractor share ultimate responsibility for the activities that occur on the construction site. You may be held responsible for any environmental damage caused by you subcontractors or employees.

Pollution Control Agencies and Sources of Information

Orange County Storm Water Program

(714) 567-6363

Agencies to call in the event of a spill

You are required by law to report all significant releases or suspected significant releases of hazardous materials, including oil.

To report a spill, call the following agencies:

1. Dial (800) 303-0003 or your local emergency response number.
2. Call the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Warning Center, (800) 852-7550 (24 hours).

For spills of "Federal Reportable Quantities" of oil, chemicals, or other hazardous materials to land, air, or water, notify the National Response Center (800-424-8802). If you are not sure whether the spill is of a "reportable quantity," call the federal Environmental Protection Agency (800) 424-9346 for clarification.

For further information, see *California Hazardous Material Spill Release Notification Guidance* (State Office of Emergency Services, Hazardous Materials Division).

Agencies to call if you find or suspect contaminated soil or groundwater

Regional Water Quality Control Board:

California Environmental
Protection Agency (Cal EPA),
Department of Toxic Substances
Control (DTSC) (510) 540-3732

Documents and available resources

From State Water Resources Control Board (SVRCB)
(916) 657-1146:

*General Construction Activity
Storm Water Permit*

*California Storm Water Best
Management Practice Handbook -
Construction Activity*

From Cal EPA, DTSC
(916) 322-3670:

Waste Minimization for the Building Construction Industry - Fact Sheet

The City of Seal Beach gratefully acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley NonPoint Source Pollution Control Program and BASMAA and Los Angeles County for the concept, content, and artwork for this booklet.