Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Construction projects are required to implement the stormwater best management practices (BMP) on this page, as they apply to your project, all year long.

Materials & Waste Management

- Non-Hazardous Materials
  - Store and cover stockpiles of sand, dirt, or other construction material with tarp when rain is forecast or if not actively being used within 14 days.
  - Use (but don’t overuse) reclaimed water for dust control.

- Hazardous Materials
  - Label all hazardous materials and wastes right away.
  - Keep hazardous materials and wastes in water tight containers.
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  - Do not apply chemicals outdoors when rain is forecast within 24 hours.
  - Arrange for appropriate disposal of all hazardous wastes.

- Waste Management
  - Cover waste disposal containers securely with tarp at the end of every work day and during wet weather.
  - Check waste disposal containers frequently for leaks and to make sure they are not overfilled. Never place drums on the construction site.
  - Clean or replace portable toilets, and inspect them frequently for leaks and spills.
  - Dispose of all wastes and debris properly. Recycle materials and wastes that can be recycled (such as asphalt, concrete, aggregate base materials, wood, dry goods, etc.), and
  - Disposes of liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids as hazardous waste.

- Construction Entrances and Perimeter
  - Establish and maintain effective perimeter controls and stabilize all construction entrances and exit to sufficiently control erosion and sediment discharge from site and restricting off.
  - Sweep or vacuum any street tracking immediately and ensure sediment source is prevented further tracking. Never leave down streets to clean up tracking.

Equipment Management & Spill Control

- Maintenance and Packing
  - Designate an area, fenced with appropriate BMS for vehicle and equipment parking and storage.
  - Perform major maintenance, repair jobs, and vehicle and equipment washing off site.
  - If scheduling or vehicle maintenance must be done on site, work in a bermed area away from storm drains and never a deep cut or pit deep enough to collect fluids. Recycle or dispose of fluids as hazardous waste.
  - If vehicle or equipment clearing must be done on site, clean with water only in a bermed area that will not allow water rinse to run into gutters, streets, storm drains, or surface waters.
  - Do not clean vehicle or equipment onsite using soaps, solvents, degreasers, or strong cleaning equipment.

- Spill Prevention and Control
  - Keep spill cleanup materials (e.g., saw, absorbent, and cat litter) available at the construction site at all times.
  - Inspect vehicles and equipment frequently for and repair leaks promptly. Use drip pans to catch leaks until repairs are made.
  - Clean up spills or leaks immediately and dispose of cleanup materials properly.
  - Do not hose down areas where fluids have spilled.
  - Use dry cleanup methods (absorbent materials, cat litter, and mud) and/or rags.
  - Sweep up spilled dry materials immediately. Do not try to wash them away with water or burn them.
  - Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.
  - Report significant spills immediately. You are required by law to report all significant releases of hazardous materials, including oil. To report a spill, call the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Warning Center, (800) 852-7550 (24 hours).

Earthmoving

- Schedule grading and excavation work during dry weather.
- Bury all disturbed areas, fill all and maintain temporary erosion control such as erosion control fabric or bermed fiber until vegetation is established.
- Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary, and seed or plant vegetation for erosion control on slopes or where construction is not immediately planned.
- Prevent sediment from eroding offsite and protect storm drain inlets, gutters, and, where feasible, by constructing and maintaining appropriate BMPs, such as fiber rolls, soil filters, sediment basins, gravel basins, berms, etc.
- Keep excavated soil on site and transfer it to dump trucks on site, not in the streets.

Paving/Asphalt Work

- Avoid paving and seal coating in wet weather or when rain is forecast to prevent materials that have not cured from contaminating stormwater runoff.
- Cover storm drain inlets and manholes when applying seal coat, crack seal, or asphalt seal, fill, fog seal, etc.
- Collar and recycle or appropriately dispose of excess abrasive ground or sand. Do NOT sweep or wash it into gutters.
- Do not use water to wash down fresh asphalt concrete pavement.

Concrete, Grout & Mortar Application

- Store concrete, grout, and mortar away from storm drains or waterways, and on pallets under cover to protect them from rain, freeze, and wind.
- Wash out concrete equipment/trucks or in a designated washout area where the water will flow into a temporary waste pit, and in a manner that will prevent entering into the underlying well or stormwater systems.
- Concrete barriers and/or disposable of excess liquids hazardous waste.
- Paint chips and dust from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting may be swept up or collected in plastic bags, and disposed of as trash.
- Chemical paint stripping residues and chips and dust from marine paint or paint containing lead, mercury, or tributyltin must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Painting & Paint Removal

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or stream.
- Use water-based paints on the extent possible, and rinse into a drain that goes to the sanitary sewer. Never pour paint down a storm drain.
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and rinse into a drain that goes to the sanitary sewer. Never pour paint down a storm drain.
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- Chemical paint stripping residues and chips and dust from marine paint or paint containing lead, mercury, or tributyltin must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Dewatering

- Chemical paint stripping residues and chips and dust from marine paint or paint containing lead, mercury, or tributyltin must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Landscaping

- Fertilizer, lime, or other amendments that are applied shall be removed from your site.

Storm drain polluters may be liable for fines of up to $10,000 per day!