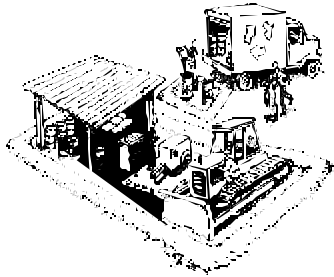


General Construction And



Site Supervision

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry

Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains flow directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean with no treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or wetlands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; landscape runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

All of the cities in San Mateo County have joined together with San Mateo County and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to educate local residents and businesses and fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices in this pamphlet.

Storm Drain Pollution from Construction Activities

Construction sites are common sources of storm drain pollution. Materials and wastes that blow or wash into a

storm drain, gutter, or street have a direct impact on local creeks and wetlands, San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. As a contractor, site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, you may be responsible for any environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.

What Can You Do?

Advance planning prevents pollution

- ◆ **Schedule excavation and grading activities for dry weather periods.** To reduce soil erosion, plant temporary vegetation or place other erosion controls before rain begins.
- ◆ **Locate and protect storm drains** in the vicinity of the site with berms or filters during wet weather periods.
- ◆ **Control the amount of runoff crossing your site** (especially during excavation) by using berms or temporary or permanent drainage ditches to divert water flow around the site. Reduce stormwater runoff velocities by constructing temporary check dams or berms where appropriate.
- ◆ **Train your employees and subcontractors.** Make these brochures available to everyone who works on the construction site. Inform subcontractors about the new stormwater requirements and their responsibilities.

Good housekeeping practices

- ◆ **Designate one completely contained area for auto parking, vehicle refueling, and routine equipment maintenance.** The designated area should be well away from streams or storm drain inlets, and bermed if necessary. Make major repairs off site.
- ◆ **Keep materials out of the rain -- prevent runoff contamination at the source.** Cover exposed piles of soil or construction materials with plastic sheeting or temporary roofs.
- ◆ **Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces.** Place trash cans and recycling receptacles around the site to minimize litter.
- ◆ **Dry sweep paved surfaces** that drain to storm drains, creeks, or channels. If pavement flushing is necessary, use silt ponds or other techniques to trap sediment and other pollutants.
- ◆ **Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately** so they do not contaminate soil or groundwater or leave residue on paved surfaces. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible. If you must use water, use just enough to keep the dust down.
- ◆ **Cover and maintain dumpsters.** Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under roofs or cover with

tarps or plastic sheeting secured around the outside of the dumpster. A plastic liner is recommended to prevent leakage of liquids. **Never clean out a dumpster by hosing it down on the construction site.**

- ◆ **Make sure portable toilets are maintained in good working order** by the leasing company and that wastes are disposed of properly. Check toilets frequently for leaks.

Materials/waste handling

- ◆ **Practice source reduction -- minimize waste when you order materials.** Order only the amount you need to finish the job.
- ◆ **Use recyclable materials** whenever possible. Arrange for pick-up of recyclable 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.
- ◆ **Dispose of all wastes and demolition debris properly.** Many construction materials and wastes can be recycled, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation. Materials and debris that cannot be recycled must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste. **Never bury waste materials or leave them in the street or near a creek or stream bed.**

San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (STOPPP)

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