

Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



Who should use this brochure?

- Masons and bricklayers
- Concrete delivery/pumping workers
- Sidewalk construction crews
- Patio construction workers
- Construction inspectors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers
- Homeowners

Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean without treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or baylands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion; landscaping 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 stormwater pollution. Join us, by following the practices described in this pamphlet.

What Can You Do?

General Business Practices

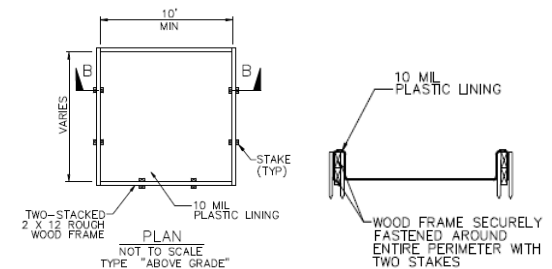
- ❑ Both at your yard and the construction site, always store dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains or waterways. Protect dry materials from wind.
- ❑ Secure bags of cement after they are open. Be sure to keep wind-blown cement powder away from gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.
- ❑ Wash out concrete equipment/mixers/trucks only in designated wash-out areas in your yard, where the water will flow into a temporary waste pit, and in a manner that will prevent leaching into underlying soils.
- ❑ Dispose of settled, hardened concrete in the garbage. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse. **Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams.**

Storm Drain Pollution from Masonry and Paving

Fresh concrete and cement-related mortars that wash into the Bay, streams, or ocean are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment. Disposing of these materials to the storm drains or creeks causes serious problems -- and is prohibited by law.

Concrete Use & Sawcutting Near Waterways

- ❑ On larger sites, locate washout areas at least 50 feet from storm drains, open ditches, or bodies of water. Washout areas should be located away from construction traffic or access areas to prevent disturbance or tracking.



- ❑ When saw cutting or sanding, ensure concrete dust does not enter waterway. Use filter fabric, catch basin inlet filters, or gravel bags to keep slurry out of the storm drain system. If residue does enter a catch basin inlet, clean it up immediately.
- ❑ Saw cutting residue should not be allowed to flow across the pavement and should not be left on the surface of the pavement.
- ❑ Shovel, absorb, or vacuum saw-cut slurry and dispose of all waste as soon as you are finished in one location or at the end of each work day (whichever is sooner!)
- ❑ Use sheeting or otherwise isolate concrete that is used in channels (e.g., for piers, etc.) for 3-4 weeks to one month to allow time for curing.

During Construction

- Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use in a two-hour period.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths.
- When cleaning up after driveway or sidewalk construction, wash fines onto dirt areas, not down the driveway or into the street or storm drain. If necessary, divert runoff with temporary berms.
- When washing exposed aggregate on driveways or patios, prevent washwater from entering storm drains. Either
 - (a) hose aggregate wash onto dirt areas and spade into dirt;
 - (b) drain onto a bermed surface, pump and dispose of it properly; or
 - (c) block any storm drain inlets and vacuum washwater from the gutter.
- Protect applications of fresh concrete and mortar from rainfall and runoff until the material has dried.
- When breaking up paving, be sure to pick up all the pieces and dispose properly. Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a recycling facility or concrete plant.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never bury solid or hazardous waste material.

*In the case where a municipality is involved with concrete/masonry and related clean-up, the responsible party shall be liable for the full cost of the municipality's clean-up. Costs include clean-up as well as the removal and proper disposal of all debris and construction waste from the exterior of the work site.

Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are eligible to use San Mateo County's Very Small Quantity Generator Program. Call (650) 655-6217 for a quote, more information or guidance on disposal.

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures for specific types of construction industry activities. Other pamphlets include:

General Construction and Site Supervision

Landscaping, Gardening, and Pool Maintenance

Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

Roadwork and Paving

Earth-Moving and Dewatering Activities

Heavy Equipment Operation



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Spill Response Agencies:

Non-emergency calls:

1. San Mateo County Environmental Health Division's Household Hazardous Waste Hotline includes information for businesses: (650) 363-4718
2. For stormwater pollution prevention information and additional brochures visit the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program's web site at www.flowstobay.org or contact local stormwater programs (see list below).

Town of Atherton	(650) 752-0541
City of Belmont	(650) 595-7425
City of Brisbane	(415) 508-2130
City of Burlingame	(650) 558-7230
Town of Colma	(650) 757-8888
City of Daly City	(650) 991-8200
City of East Palo Alto	(650) 853-3197
City of Foster City	(650) 286-3270
City of Half Moon Bay	(650) 726-8260
Town of Hillsborough	(650) 375-7411
City of Menlo Park	(650) 330-6740
City of Millbrae	(650) 259-2339
City of Pacifica	(650) 738-3767
Town of Portola Valley	(650) 851-1700
City of Redwood City	(650) 780-7464
City of San Bruno	(650) 616-7160
City of San Carlos	(650) 802-4261
City of San Mateo	(650) 522-7350
City of S. San Francisco	(650) 877-8555
Town of Woodside	(650) 851-6790
County of San Mateo	(650) 599-7310

3. San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board: (510) 622-2300

Emergency calls only:

1. Dial 911
2. Governor's Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours): 1-800-852-7550