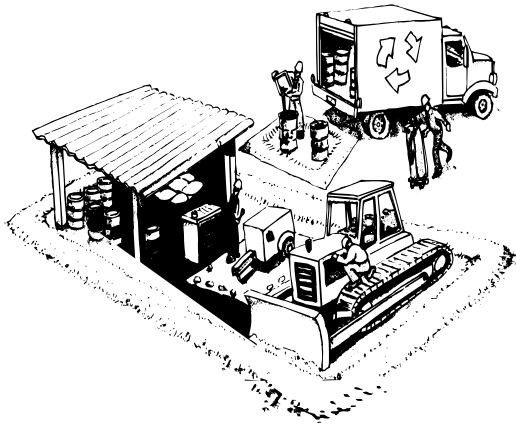


General Construction and Site Supervision

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



Who should use this brochure?

- Site supervisors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers

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?

Planning Prevents Pollution

- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Schedule excavation and grading activities for dry weather periods.** To reduce soil erosion, plant temporary vegetation or place other erosion controls before rain begins. Refer to the *CASQA Construction BMP Online Handbook* (www.casqa.org/resources/bmp-handbooks) for proper erosion/sediment control measures.
- ❑ **Control the amount of runoff crossing your site** (especially during excavation) by using berms or drainage ditches to divert water flow around the site. Reduce stormwater runoff velocities by constructing temporary check dams or berms where appropriate.

Good Housekeeping Practices

- ❑ **Locate and protect storm drains** in the vicinity of the site with berms or filters.
- ❑ **Designate one completely contained area** for vehicle 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.
- ❑ **Prevent runoff contamination at the source** by keeping materials out of the rain. 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 clean the spill without runoff.
- ❑ **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.

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.

Materials and 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.**

In addition to local grading and building permits, if your construction site's disturbed area totals 1 acre or more, you will need to obtain coverage under the State's General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit. Information on the General Permit can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml

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:

Landscaping, Gardening, and Pool Maintenance

Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

Roadwork and Paving

Earth-Moving and Dewatering Activities

Heavy Equipment Operation



SMCWPPP gratefully acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program for the original concept and text of this brochure.

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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