

Heavy Equipment Operation

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



Who should use this brochure?

- Vehicle and equipment operators
- 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.

Storm Drain Pollution From Heavy Equipment on the Construction Site

Poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel, oil, antifreeze or other fluids on the construction site are common sources of storm drain pollution. Prevent spilled or leaked fluids from entering storm drains by isolating equipment with berms, and by watching for leaks and other maintenance problems. Remove construction equipment from the site as soon as possible.



What Can You Do?

Site Planning and Preventive Vehicle Maintenance

- Designate a completely contained area of the construction site, well away from streams or storm drain inlets and fitted with appropriate BMPs, for auto and equipment parking, refueling, and routine vehicle and equipment maintenance.
- Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently for and repair leaks.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs, and vehicle and equipment washing off site.
- If vehicle or equipment cleaning must be done onsite, clean with water only in a bermed area that will not allow rinse water to run into gutters, streets, storm drains, or surface waters.
- Do not clean vehicles or equipment onsite using soaps, solvents, degreasers, or steam cleaning equipment, and do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment or parts onsite.
- 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 separate containers, and recycle whenever possible, or dispose of fluids as hazardous waste.
- Recycle used vehicle batteries.

Clean up spills or leaks immediately

- Keep spill cleanup materials (e.g., rags, cat litter, and absorbents) available at the construction site at all times. All fueling trucks and fueling areas should have spill kits and/or other spill protection devices.
- Never hose down "dirty" pavement or impermeable surfaces where fluids have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods (absorbent materials, cat litter, and/or rags) whenever possible and properly dispose of absorbent materials. If you must use water, use just enough to clean the spill without runoff.
- Sweep up spilled dry materials immediately. Never attempt to "wash them away" with water, or bury them. Use as little water as possible for dust control.
- Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.



- Report significant spills to the appropriate spill response agencies immediately. (See back of brochure.)
- If the spill poses a significant hazard to human health and safety, property or the environment, you must also report it to the State Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

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*
- Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application*
- Earth-Moving and Dewatering Activities*
- Roadwork and Paving*



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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