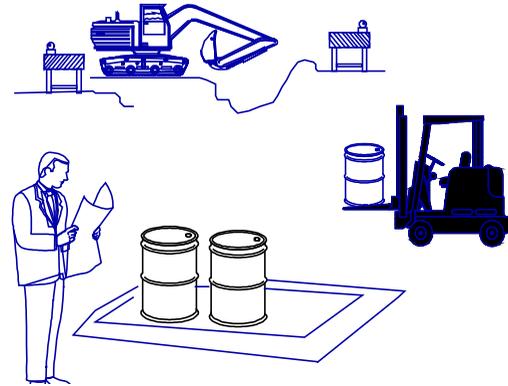


# General Construction and Site Supervision



## Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



Alameda Countywide  
Clean Water Program  
A Consortium of Local Agencies

**Storm Drain**

## Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In Alameda County, storm drains flow directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay, with no treatment. Storm water pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near streams or baylands. Common sources of this pollution are oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris and dirt; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and other materials that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

The County and its 14 cities have joined together with Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to educate local residents and businesses and fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

### Who should use this brochure?

- Construction inspectors
- Site supervisors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers
- Anyone in the construction business

### Urban Runoff Control Program

The County and its cities all have Ordinances for "Storm Water Management and Discharge Control." In order to comply with state and federal law, these Ordinances prohibit most non-storm water discharges to the storm drain. This includes discharges from construction sites that may contain concrete, paint, fluids from heavy equipment, etc.

The Ordinance also requires anyone engaged in an activity that might pollute storm water to take all practicable measures to reduce pollutants.

For information on the urban runoff pollution control program in your area, contact:

City of Alameda  
Urban Runoff  
Clean Water Program

(510) 747-7930

[www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org)

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has issued a General Permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity. Your construction project may need to be covered under the General Permit. To obtain coverage, you must file a Notice of Intent (NOI). For more information call the State Water Board's Construction Activity Storm Water Hotline at (916) 657-1146.

The Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program gratefully acknowledges Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program for this brochure and design.

## Storm Drain Pollution from Construction Activities

Construction sites are common sources of storm water pollution. Materials and wastes that blow or wash into a storm drain, gutter, or street have a direct impact on local creeks and the Bay. 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 to Prevent Pollution

- Schedule excavation, grading, and paving activities for dry weather periods.



- Control the amount of runoff crossing your construction site. Use berms or drainage ditches to divert water flow around the site.

- Identify potential pollution sources from materials and wastes that will be used, stored or disposed of on the job.



- Inform your employees and subcontractors about the clean storm water requirements and their responsibilities in pollution prevention.

- Design site to protect storm water quality; allow areas for chemical and equipment storage away from drains or channels.

## Best Management Practices

The following practices can reduce pollution significantly. Compliance with environmental regulations can be as simple as minimizing contact with rainwater (covering the source), limiting the area of the source, protecting materials and waste from runoff, and maintaining a "clean" site using good housekeeping practices or Best Management Practices.

- Use one area of the site for auto parking, vehicle refueling, and routine equipment maintenance. This designated area should be well away from streams or storm drain inlets, and bermed and rocked 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. Before it rains, sweep and remove materials from paved surfaces that drain to storm drains, creeks, or channels.



- Keep work areas and the public right-of-way clean. Remove trash, litter, and debris on a daily basis.

- Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately so they do not pollute the soil or leave residue on paved surfaces that can be washed away when it rains.

- Maintain all vehicles and equipment in good working order. Inspect frequently for leaks and repair promptly.

- Never wash down "dirty" pavement or surfaces where materials have been spilled; use dry cleanup methods whenever possible (absorbent materials, cat litter, and/or rags).



- Place dumpsters under roofs or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting. Never clean out a dumpster by washing it down.

- Make sure portable toilets are in good working order. Check frequently for leaks.

- Implement erosion and sediment control practices outlined in the SFRWQCB's "Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual."

## Materials and Waste Handling

- Practice source reduction by ordering only the amount you need to finish the job.

- Dispose of all wastes properly. Many construction materials and wastes, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation can be recycled. Materials that cannot be recycled must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste. **Never bury waste materials.**



- Never clean or rinse tools or equipment into a street, gutter or storm drain.

- Use recyclable materials whenever possible.

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

*Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives*  
*Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application*  
*Roadwork and Paving*  
*Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance*

