Pollution Control Agencies and Sources of Information

Storm water quality management programs
Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
951 Turner Court, Hayward, CA 94545 (510) 679-0183
www.cleanwaterprogram.com

Contra Costa Clean Water Program
2255 Central Drive, Martinez, CA 94553-2987 (925) 378-2992
(800) 648-2274
www.concordwater.org

Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program
1010 Chadbourne Road
Fairfield, CA 94534 (707) 429-8930

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
301 Civic Center Drive, Room 306
San Rafael, CA 94903 (415) 499-6528
www.mcsd.county.marin.ca.us

San Francisco Stormwater Management Program
3801 3rd Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94134 (415) 693-7310
http://sfwater.org

San Mateo County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
555 County Center, Fifth Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063 (650) 255-8250
www.flowtobay.org

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
699 Town & Country Village
Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 794-2482
www.scvuopp.org

Sonoma County Water Agency
2150 West College Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707) 526-3570
www.acwa.org

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District
450 Ryders Street, Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 544-8949
www.rsfd.com

Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA)
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 252-2326
(888) BayWise www.basmaa.org

Agencies to call in the event of a spill
You are required by law to report all significant releases or suspected significant releases of hazardous materials, including oil.

To report a spill, call the following agencies:

1. Dial 911 or your local emergency response number.
2. Call the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Warning Center, (800) 822-7500 (24 hours).
3. For spills of “Federal Reportable Quantities” of oil, chemicals, or other hazardous materials to land, air, or water, notify the National Response Center (800-424-8802). If you are not sure whether the spill is of a “reportable quantity,” call the federal Environmental Protection Agency (800-424-9304) for clarification.

For further information, see California Hazardous Material Spill/Release Notification Guidance (State Office of Emergency Services, Hazardous Materials Division).

Agencies to call if you find or suspect contaminated soil or groundwater

Regional Water Quality Control Board:
San Francisco Bay Region
(510) 622-2000
Central Valley Region
(510) 225-3000
California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
(510) 540-3732

Documents and available resources
From State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
(916) 324-5343
www.swrcb.ca.gov

From Friends of the Bay
San Francisco Estuary
(415) 322-2465
www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/bayestuary

Field Manual
Guidelines for Construction Projects
Hold on to Your Dirt Video
Keep it Clean Video

From Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
(650) 494-7800
www.abag.ca.gov

Manual of Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control Measures
From Cal EPA, DTSC
(916) 322-2465
www.dtsc.ca.gov

Waste Minimization for the Building Construction Industry Fact Sheet
From California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)
www.casqanet.org

Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook Construction

THANKS
BASMAA adapted this booklet from one originally developed and generously shared by the Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program.

Illustrations by John Finger

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Blueprint for a Clean Bay
Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution from Construction-Related Activities

The Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA), a consortium of Bay Area municipalities from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties, developed this booklet as a resource for all general contractors, home builders, and subcontractors working on construction sites.
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### Stormwater Pollution

**Storm Drain System**

Stormwater runoff from sources like sprinklers and hoses flows over the ground into the storm drain system. In the San Francisco Bay Area, storm drain systems consist of gutters, storm drains, underground pipes, open channels, culverts, and creeks. Storm drain systems are designed to drain directly to the Bay, Delta, or Pacific Ocean with no treatment.

**Pollution From Construction Sites**

Stormwater runoff is part of a natural hydrologic process. However, land development and construction activities can significantly alter natural drainage patterns and pollute stormwater runoff. Runoff picks up pollutants as it flows over the ground or paved areas and carries these pollutants into the storm drain system. Common sources of pollutants from construction sites include: sediments from soil erosion; construction materials and waste (e.g., paint, solvents, concrete, drywall); landscaping runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides; and spilled oil, fuel, and other fluids from construction vehicles and heavy equipment.

**Adverse Effects from Stormwater Pollution**

Stormwater pollution is a major source of water pollution in California. It can cause declines in fisheries, damage habitats, and limit water recreation activities. Stormwater pollution poses a serious threat to the overall health of the ecosystem.

For more information on stormwater requirements, call the State Water Resources Control Board's Stormwater Information Line at (916) 341-5537 or your local program.
Best Management Practices

General Practices

The following are some general principles that can significantly reduce pollution from construction activity and help make compliance with stormwater regulations easy:

- Identify all storm drains, drainage swales and creeks located near the construction site and make sure all subcontractors are aware of their locations to prevent pollutants from entering them.
- Clean up leaks, drips, and other spills immediately so they do not contact stormwater.
- Refill vehicles and heavy equipment in one designated location on the site and take care to clean up spills immediately.
- Wash vehicles at an appropriate off-site facility. If equipment must be washed on-site, do not use soaps, solvents, degreasers, or steam cleaning equipment, and prevent wash water from entering the storm drain. If possible, direct wash water to a low point where it can evaporate and/or infiltrate.
- Never wash down pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.
- Avoid contaminating clean runoff from areas adjacent to your site by using berms and/or temporary or permanent drainage ditches to divert water flow around the site. Reduce stormwater runoff velocities by constructing temporary check dams and/or berms where appropriate.
- Protect all storm drain inlets using filter fabric cloth or other best management practices to prevent sediments from entering the storm drainage system during construction activities.
- Keep materials out of the rain — prevent runoff pollution at the source. Schedule clearing or heavy earth moving activities for periods of dry weather. Cover exposed piles of soil, construction materials and wastes with plastic sheeting or temporary roofs. Before it rains, sweep and remove materials from surfaces that drain to storm drains, creeks, or channels.

Specific Practices

Following is a summary of specific best management practices for erosion and sediment control and contractor activities. For more information on erosion and sediment control BMP's and their design, please refer to the RWQCB Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual (August 2002), the CASQA Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction (January 2003), and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Manual of Standards for Erosion & Sediment Control Measures (May 1995).

Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control

Prevent erosion

Soil erosion is the process by which soil particles are removed from the land surface, by wind, water and/or gravity. Soil particles removed by stormwater runoff are pollutants that when deposited in local creeks, lakes, Bay or Delta, can have negative impacts on aquatic habitat. Exposed soil after clearing, grading, or excavation is easily eroded by wind or water. The following practices will help prevent erosion from occurring on the construction site:

- Plan the development to fit the topography, soils, drainage patterns and natural vegetation of the site.
- Delineate clearing limits, casements, setbacks, sensitive or critical areas, trees, drainage courses, and buffer zones to prevent excessive or unnecessary disturbances and exposure.
- Phase grading operations to reduce disturbed areas and time of exposure.
- Avoid excavation and grading during wet weather.
- Limit on-site construction routes and stabilize construction entrance(s) and exit(s).
- Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary.
- Construct diversion dikes and drainage swales to channel runoff around the site.
- Use berms and drainage ditches to divert runoff around exposed areas. Place diversion ditches across the top of cut slopes.

Projects Equal To Or Greater Than 1 Acre

If your construction activity will disturb one acre or more, you must obtain coverage under the General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit (General Construction Permit) issued by the SWRCB for stormwater discharges associated with construction activity. To obtain coverage under the General Permit, a Notice of Intent (NOI) must be filed with the SWRCB. The General Construction Permit requires you to prepare and carry out a "Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan" or SWPPP. Your SWPPP must identify appropriate stormwater pollution prevention measures or best management practices (BMP's). Like the ones described in this booklet, to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site both during and after construction is complete. A best management practice or BMP is defined as any program, technology, process, practice, operating procedure, measure, or device that controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution. The General Permit also requires permanent stormwater quality controls (see YASMA's Start at the Source manual and CASQA's BMP Handbooks New Development and Redevelopment for examples). You should keep a copy of your SWPPP readily available onsite throughout construction.

Projects Less Than 1 Acre

If your project is less than one acre, you may still need to use BMP's to comply with local municipal requirements. Check with the local stormwater program (listed on back cover), or planning or engineering department for details.

For more information on the General Permits, call the State Water Resources Control Board's Stormwater Information Line at (916) 341-5537 or your local program.
Best Management Practices

- Plant vegetation on exposed slopes. Where replanting is not feasible, use erosion control blankets (e.g., jute or straw matting, glass fiber or excelsior matting, mulch setting).
- Consider slope terracing with cross drains to increase soil stability.
- Cover stockpiled soil and landscaping materials with secured plastic sheeting and divert runoff around them.
- As a back-up measure, protect drainage courses, creeds, or catch basins with fiber rolls, silt fences, sand/gravel bags and/or temporary drainage swales.
- Once grading is completed, stabilize the disturbed areas using permanent vegetation as soon as possible. Use temporary erosion controls until vegetation is established.
- Conduct routine inspections of erosion control measures especially before and immediately after rainstorms, and repair if necessary.

Control sediment

Sedimentation is defined as the process of depositing sediments carried away by runoff. Sediments consist of soil particles, clays, sands, and other minerals. The purpose of sediment control practices is to remove sediments from stormwater before they are transported offsite or reach a storm drain inlet or nearby creek. The most effective sediment control practices reduce runoff velocity and trap or detain runoff allowing sediments to settle out.

- Use terracing, rip rap, sand/gravel bags, rocks, fiber rolls, and/or temporary vegetation on slopes to reduce runoff velocity and trap sediments. Do not use asphalt or rubber or other demolition debris for this purpose.
- Use check dams in temporary drains and swales to reduce runoff velocity and promote sedimentation.
- Protect storm drain inlets from sediment-laden runoff. Storm drain inlet protection devices include sand/gravel bag barriers, filter fabric fences, block and gravel filters, catch basin filter inserts, excavated drop inlet sediment traps, or a combination of these.
- Collect and detain sediment-laden runoff in sediment traps (an excavated or bermed area or constructed device) to allow sediments to settle out prior to discharge.
- Use sediment controls and filtration to remove sediments from dewatering discharges.
- Prevent construction vehicle tires from tracking soil onto adjacent streets by constructing a temporary stone pad with a filter fabric underliner near the site exit where soil and mud can be removed.
- When cleaning sediments from streets, driveways and paved areas on construction sites, use dry sweeping methods where possible. If water must be used to flush pavement, collect runoff to settle out sediments and protect storm drain inlets.

Note: Performance of erosion and sediment control is dependent on proper installation, routine inspections and maintenance of the controls. Straws, hale barriers are an example of a BMP that has not been as effective as expected due to improper use. Most of the BMP's described above are temporary and if left alone can quickly fail into disrepair and/or become ineffective. Routine inspections and maintenance, particularly before and after a storm event, must be part of any erosion and sediment control plan.


General Site Maintenance

Prevent spills and leaks

Poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel, oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the construction site are common sources of stormwater pollution and soil contamination. Construction material spills can also cause serious problems. Careful site planning, preventive maintenance, and good materials handling practices can eliminate most spills and leaks.

- Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently and repair leaks.
- Designate specific areas of the construction site, well away from creeks or storm drain inlets, for vehicle and equipment parking and routine maintenance.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs and vehicle and equipment washing offsite when feasible, or in designated and controlled areas on-site.
- 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 labeled separate containers, and recycle whenever possible. Note that in order to be recyclable, such liquids must not be mixed with other fluids. Non-recycled fluids generally must be disposed of as hazardous wastes.

Clean up spills immediately after they happen

When vehicle fluids or materials such as paints or solvents are spilled, cleanup should be immediate, automatic, and routine.

- Sweep up spilled dry materials (e.g., cement, mortar, or fertilizer) immediately. Never attempt to "wash them away" with water, or bury them. Use only minimal water for dust control.
- Clean up liquid spills on paved or impermeable surfaces using "dry" cleanup methods (e.g., absorbent materials like cat litter, sand or rags).
- Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of the contaminated soil.
- Report significant spills to the appropriate spill response agencies immediately (See reference list on the back cover of this booklet for more information).

Note: Used cleanup rags that have absorbed hazardous materials must either be sent to a certified industrial laundry or dry cleaner, or disposed of through a licensed hazardous waste disposal company.
Best Management Practices

Store materials under cover
Wet and dry building materials with the potential to pollute runoff should be stored under cover and/or surrounded by berms when rain is forecast or during wet weather.

- Store stockpiled materials and wastes under a temporary roof or secured plastic sheeting or tarp.
- Berm around storage areas to prevent contact with runoff.
- Plaster or other powders can create large quantities of suspended solids in runoff, which may be toxic to aquatic life and cause serious environmental harm even if the materials are inert. Store all such potentially polluting dry materials—especially open bags—under a temporary roof or inside a building, or cover securely with an impermeable tarp. By properly storing dry materials, you may also help protect air quality, as well as water quality.
- Store containers of paints, chemicals, solvents, and other hazardous materials in accordance with secondary containment regulations and under cover during rainy periods.

Cover and maintain dumpsters
Open and/or leaking dumpsters can be a source of stormwater pollution.

- Cover open dumpsters with plastic sheeting or a tarp. Secure the sheeting or tarp around the outside of the dumpster. If your dumpster has a cover, close it.
- If a dumpster is leaking, contain and collect leaking material. Return the dumpster to the leasing company for repair/exchange.
- Do not clean dumpsters on-site. Return to leasing company for periodic cleaning, if necessary.

Collect and properly dispose of paint removal wastes
Paint removal wastes include chemical paint stripping residues, paint chips and dust, sand blasting material and wash water. These wastes contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife in our creeks and the water bodies they flow to. Keep all paint wastes away from the gutter, street, and storm drains.

- Non-hazardous paint chips and dust from dry stripping and sand blasting may be swept up or collected in plastic drop cloths and disposed of as trash. Chemical paint stripping residue and chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- When stripping or cleaning building exteriors with high-pressure water, cover or berm storm drain inlets. If possible (and allowed by your local waste-water treatment plant), collect (mop or vacuum) building cleaning water and discharge to the sanitary sewer. Alternately, discharge non-contaminated wash water onto a dirt area and spade into the soil. Be sure to shovel or sweep up any debris that remains in the gutter and dispose of as garbage.

Clean up paints, solvents, adhesives, and cleaning solutions properly
Although many paint materials can and should be recycled, liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes. When they are thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags, absorbent materials, and drop cloths are no longer hazardous and may be disposed of as garbage.

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or creek.
- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible and rinse to a drain leading to the sanitary sewer (i.e., indoor plumbing).
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of unusable thinners and residue as hazardous waste.
- Recycle, return to supplier or donate unwanted water-based (latex) paint. You may be able to recycle clean empty dry paint cans as metal (check with the local planning or building department for more information).
- Dried latex paint may be disposed of in the garage.
- Unwanted paint (that is not recycled), thinners, and sludges must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- More and more paint companies are recycling excess latex paint (check with the local planning or building department for more information).

Keep fresh concrete and cement mortars out of gutters, storm drains, and creeks
Concrete and cement-related mortars that wash into gutters and storm drains are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment.

- Locate mortar/stucco mixers inside bermed areas to avoid discharge to street or storm drains.
- Avoid mixing excess amounts of fresh concrete or cement mortar.
- Store dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff.
- Wash out concrete transit mixers only in designated wash-out areas where the water will flow into settling ponds or onto dirt or stockpiles of aggregate base or sand. Pump water from settling ponds to the sanitary sewer, where allowed. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse. Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, or creeks.

Whenever possible, return contents of mixer barrel to the yard for recycling. Dispose of small amounts of excess concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.

Service and maintain portable toilets
Leaking portable toilets are a potential health and environmental hazard.

- Inspect portable toilets for leaks.
- Be sure the leasing company adequately maintains, promptly repairs, and replaces units as needed.
- The leasing company must have a permit to dispose of waste to the sanitary sewer.
- Do not place on or near storm drain inlets.

Dispose of cleared vegetation properly
Cleared vegetation, tree trimmings, and other plant material can cause environmental damage if it gets into creeks. Such "organic" material requires large quantities of oxygen to decompose, which reduces the oxygen available for fish and other aquatic life.

- Do not dispose of plant material in a creek or drainage facility or leave it in a roadway where it can clog storm drain inlets.
- Avoid disposal of plant material in trash dumpsters or mixing it with other wastes. Compost plant material or take it to a landfill or other facility that composts yard waste (check with the local planning or building department for more information).

Recycle yard waste and tree trimmings at a landfill that chips and composts plant material.
Demolition Waste Management

Make sure all demolition waste is properly disposed of

Demolition debris that is left in the street or pushed over a bank into a creek bed or drainage facility causes serious problems for flood control, storm drain maintenance, and the health of our environment. Different types of materials have different disposal requirements or recycling options.

- Materials that can be recycled from demolition projects include: metal framing, wood, concrete, asphalt, and plate glass.
- Materials that can be salvaged for reuse from old structures include: doors, banisters, floorboards, windows, 2x4s, and other old, dense lumber.
- Unusable, unrecyclable debris should be confined to dumpsters, covered at night and during wet weather, and taken to a landfill for disposal.
- Hazardous debris such as asbestos must be handled in accordance with specific laws and regulations and disposed of as a hazardous waste. For more information on asbestos handling and disposal regulations, contact the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
- Arrange for an adequate debris disposal schedule to ensure that dumpsters do not overflow.
- Most local planning or building departments have lists of recycling and disposal services for construction and demolition debris.

Roadwork and Pavement Construction

Plan roadwork and pavement construction to avoid stormwater pollution

Road paving, surfacing, and asphalt removal happen right in the street, with numerous opportunities for stormwater pollution from the asphalt mix, saw-cut slurry, or excavated material. Properly proportioned asphalt mix and well-compacted pavement avoid a host of water pollution problems.

- Apply concrete, asphalt, and seal coat during dry weather to prevent contaminants from contacting stormwater runoff.
- Cover storm drain inlets and manholes when paving or applying seal coat, slurry seal, fog seal, etc.
- Always park paving machines over drip pans or absorbent materials, since they tend to drip continuously.
- When making saw-cuts in pavement, use as little water as possible. Cover each cut with a moist, plastic film before making the saw cut.
- Wash down exposed aggregate concrete only when the wash water can: (1) flow onto a dirt area; (2) drain onto a bermed surface from which it can be pumped and disposed of properly; or (3) be vacuumed from a catchment created by blocking a storm drain inlet. If necessary, divert runoff with temporary berms. Make sure runoff does not reach gutters or storm drains.
- Allow aggregate rinse to settle, and pump the water to the sanitary sewer if allowed by your local wastewater authority.
- Never wash sweepings from exposed aggregate concrete into a street or storm drain. Collect and return to aggregate base stockpile, or dispose with trash.
- Recycle broken concrete and asphalt (check with the local planning or building department for more information).

Contaminated Ponded Stormwater, Groundwater, and Soil Guidance

Look for ponded stormwater, groundwater, and/or soil contamination

Ponded stormwater, groundwater and soil may become contaminated if exposed to hazardous materials. If any of the following conditions apply, contaminated ponded stormwater, groundwater, and/or soil may be present and pose a potential health and environmental hazard:

- The project site is in an area of previous commercial/industrial activity;
- There is a history of illegal dumping on the site or adjacent properties;
- The construction site is subject to a Superfund, state, or local cleanup order;
- Ponded stormwater, groundwater and/or water generated by dewatering exhibits an oily sheen and/or smells of petroleum;
- Soil appears discolored, smells of petroleum and/or exhibits other unusual properties;
- Abandoned underground storage tanks, drums, or other buried debris are encountered during construction activities; or
- Spills have occurred on the site or adjacent properties involving pesticides and herbicides; fertilizers; detergents; plaster and other products; petroleum products such as fuel, oil, and grease; or other hazardous chemicals such as acids, lime, glues, paints, solvents, and curing compounds.

Take appropriate action

Ponded stormwater, groundwater, or water generated by dewatering that is contaminated cannot be discharged to a street, gutter, or storm drain. If contamination is suspected, the water should be contained and held for testing. Call the appropriate local agency and/or the Regional Water Quality Control Board for further guidance (See reference list on the back cover of this booklet for more information).