



General Construction and Site Supervision

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollutants can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people. Common sources of 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.

Thirteen valley municipalities have joined together with Santa Clara County and Valley Water to educate local residents and businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Join us in protecting the Bay and local creeks by following these Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Storm Drain Pollution from Construction Activities

Construction sites are common sources of stormwater pollution. Materials and wastes that blow or wash into a storm drain, gutter, or street directly impact 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.



Never allow spills and leaks to enter storm drains. Federal, state, and local regulations prohibit any discharges other than rain into the storm drain.

Who should use this brochure?

- General contractors
- Site supervisors
- Inspectors
- Home builders
- Developers

Doing the Job Right

GENERAL SITE MANAGEMENT

- ☐ Train your employees and subcontractors. Make these brochures available to everyone who works on the construction site. Inform subcontractors about stormwater requirements and their own responsibilities.
- ☐ Keep an orderly site and ensure good housekeeping practices are used.
- ☐ Maintain equipment properly.
- ☐ Cover materials when they are not in use.
- ☐ Keep materials away from streets, storm drains, and drainage channels.
- ☐ Ensure dust control water stays on-site and does not enter storm drains.
- ☐ Clean up any materials that leave your site. For example, if sediment from the site is in the street, sweep the street and review site exit BMPs and/or perimeter controls.



How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

ADVANCE PLANNING AND PERMITTING

- Schedule excavation and grading activities during dry weather.
- If your construction site will disturb one acre or more of soil, you will need to obtain coverage under the State's General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit. For details, visit the State Water Quality Control Board's website: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

- Stabilize all areas of exposed soil and install and maintain temporary erosion controls (such as erosion control fabric or bonded fiber matrix) until vegetation is established.
- 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.
- Prevent sediment from migrating offsite and protect storm drain inlets, drainage courses and creeks by installing and maintaining appropriate BMPs tailored to the site's specific characteristics and conditions. Examples of such BMPs may include silt fences, gravel bags, fiber rolls, temporary swales, compost socks, etc. Ensure that BMPs are installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, or the site's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, and properly maintained throughout the duration of construction activities.
- Protect storm drain inlets receiving runoff from the construction area with devices such as, but not limited to, gravel bag barriers, compost socks, or geotextile storm drain inserts.
- Establish and maintain effective perimeter controls and stabilize all construction entrances and exits to sufficiently control erosion, sediment discharges, and tracking of sediment offsite.



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES

- For vehicle and equipment parking and storage, designate an area of the construction site equipped with appropriate BMPs, well away from creeks or storm drain inlets.
- Perform maintenance, repair, washing, and refueling vehicle/equipment offsite.
- 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.
- Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces. Place trash cans and recycling receptacles with lids around the site to minimize litter.
- Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately using dry cleanup methods (absorbent materials, cat litter and/or rags) and dispose of cleanup materials properly.
- 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.
- If the dumpster leaks, place a plastic liner underneath the dumpster to collect leaks. Never clean out a dumpster by hosing it down on the construction site – clean with dry methods, clean offsite, or replace the dumpster.
- Place portable toilets and hand wash stations away from storm drains. Make sure they are equipped with containment pans (secondary containment) and are in good working order. Check frequently for leaks.

How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

MATERIALS/WASTE HANDLING

- Practice source reduction – minimize waste when ordering materials. Order only the amount you need to finish the job.
- Dispose of all wastes and demolition debris properly per Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and applicable regulations. Dispose of liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids as hazardous waste per SDS.
- Recycle or compost materials and wastes as feasible and appropriate, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt, concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation.
- Never bury waste materials or leave them in the street or near a creek or stream bed.



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 Santa Clara County's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Program. Call (800) 207-8222 to learn about proper disposal options and hazardous waste disposal.

Palo Alto operates a similar program, with a monthly collection, for small businesses. Call the City of Palo Alto, (650) 496-6980, or Clean Harbors, 1-800-433-5060 for information or to schedule an appointment.

STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

For spills or materials entering a creek, pond or reservoir call Valley Water's 24/7 Pollution Hotline: 1-888-510-5151

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution, contact your local agency during regular business hours:

Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga
(West Valley Communities) (408) 354-4734
Cupertino (408) 777-3354
Los Altos (650) 947-2770
Los Altos Hills..... (650) 941-7222
Milpitas..... (408) 586-3365

Mountain View (650) 903-6378
Palo Alto..... (650) 329-2122
San José (408) 945-3000
Santa Clara (408) 615-3080
Unincorporated Santa Clara County..... (408) 918-4609
Sunnyvale..... (408) 730-7260