



Fire Restoration Contractors

Fire restoration involves cleaning, repairing, and restoring properties damaged by fire and smoke. These activities may involve removing firefighting water and foam used during emergency firefighting activities that remain on-site or in the public right-of-way. It is important that fire restoration contractors follow practices that prevent pollutants such as **foam, water, ash, contaminated soil, burnt materials, oil, and other debris** from entering the storm drain system and waterways. When pollutants from emergency firefighting activities or fire restoration activities are dumped into the street or storm drain inlets, they flow through the storm drain system to local waterways and the San Francisco Bay (Bay) without any cleaning or filtering. These pollutants can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people.

Help protect the Bay and local creeks by following these Best Management Practices (BMPs).



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

How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

PLAN AND PREPARE

- Avoid driving vehicles through the damaged site to prevent the tracking out of pollutants and contaminated soil. If driving through the site is necessary, have a designated route prepared.
- Conduct a walk-through of the property and surrounding streets to identify locations of storm drain inlets so that they can be protected during cleanup. Storm drains are generally marked with “No Dumping. Flows to Bay” or similar messages.
- Train staff on BMPs for stormwater pollution prevention and containment of discharges.



PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

- Block or cover storm drain inlets to prevent materials from entering the storm drain system.
- Collect and remove any remaining firefighting water or foam. Do NOT allow the water or foam to enter the street, gutter, storm drain inlets, or nearby water bodies. If foam and/or other discharges enter storm drains or water bodies, immediately contact your local stormwater agency for guidance (see below for contact information).
- Clean outdoor areas with “dry” cleaning methods such as sweeping, vacuuming, dry-mopping, and drying with absorbents or rags/towels.
- If water must be used, use berms or other protective barriers to isolate polluted areas from storm drain inlets. Use a wet-vac or a small pump and hose to collect and store wash water in designated containers or a holding tank for testing and proper disposal.

How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

PROPER DISPOSAL

- Properly dispose of all debris, absorbent, and materials as hazardous waste or to the local landfill (if allowed).
- Check with your local wastewater treatment plant to see if collected firefighting water, wash water, and/or firefighting foam can be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. If discharge to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited, haul off-site for proper disposal. Unauthorized discharges to the sanitary sewer system may result in enforcement and/or fines.
- After the site is completely cleaned, remove storm drain inlet protection and ensure that storm drains are free of any contaminants or debris.



Do not dump any materials or wash water on the streets or near storm drains. Discharges to the storm sewer system may result in violations and monetary penalties.

If materials enter the storm drain system or water bodies, contact the local jurisdiction for guidance on cleanup and permitting.

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	Mountain View	(650) 903-6378
Cupertino	(408) 777-3354	Palo Alto	(650) 329-2122
Los Altos	(650) 947-2770	San José	(408) 945-3000
Los Altos Hills	(650) 941-7222	Santa Clara	(408) 615-3080
Milpitas	(408) 586-3365	Unincorporated Santa Clara County	(408) 918-4609
		Sunnyvale	(408) 730-7260

WASTEWATER AGENCIES

All discharges to the sanitary sewer must meet local discharge limits.

Contact your local wastewater agency to find out if pretreatment requirements apply:

San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility	(408) 945-3000
Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga	
Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant	(408) 730-7260
Serving Sunnyvale	
Regional Water Quality Control Plant	(650) 329-2598
Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford	