

City of San Diego - Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Businesses



When it rains or when excess water runs off landscaping and pavement onto our streets, it can flow into one of the City's storm drains. Many people believe these storm drains are part of the City's sewer system and anything that enters them is eventually treated. However, the storm drain system is NOT connected to the sewer system. Everything that washes into storm drains travels untreated to our creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean, polluting our beaches and harming fish and wildlife. You can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) as part of your business' daily clean up and maintenance routine.

Proper Cleaning Techniques:

Regularly sweep paved (concrete) areas. When washing with water, mop rather than spray and dispose of dirty water to the sewer system. Avoid hosing down soiled areas or using high-pressure washers. If power washing is necessary, collect or direct the wash water to landscaped areas for infiltration or to the sewer system.



Proper Washing Techniques:

Wash kitchen floor mats and entry/exit door mats in a mop sink so that wash water is captured and directed to the sewer system, or use an industrial dishwashing machine. If washing mats outside, use a trigger nozzle and do so in a landscaped area only.

Proper Trash Containment:

Place garbage in proper dumpsters and bins. Keep trash bins closed/covered to prevent trash from blowing offsite. Sweep trash areas and check for leaks twice a week. Keep liquids out of dumpsters. Dispose of non-toxic liquids in the sewer system. Always separate trash and recycle using proper bins.



Proper Hazardous Material Use & Disposal:

Store hazardous materials in sealed areas (such as containers or closed storage) to prevent leaks or spills. Dispose using authorized collection services. Identify the proper way to dispose of hazardous waste by calling the **County Department of Environmental Health** at 619-338-2231. Hazardous waste includes unused paint, solvents, oils, furniture polish and pesticides.



To report an illegal discharge, call the Storm Water Think Blue Hotline: 619-235-1000. Visit us on the web at: www.ThinkBlue.org