Storm Water Department Development Services Department

This information is available in alternative formats upon request. To report pollution in the storm drain, call the Think Blue Hotline at 619.235.1000 or 619.287.7555 www.ThinkBlue.org

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Prevent Pollution and Avoid Fines — Remember the 3 Cs

3. Educate all employees, consultants and subcontractors (including those of your contractor) on the potential for pollutants and discharges from leaving the construction area. Obtain Traffic Control Permits, if needed. To apply, contact the Development Services Department at 858.581.7111. See Bulletin #177, “How to Develop Your Water Pollution Control Plan.”

Strengthen the curb cut by installing a cement block or a solid wall. Protect storm drain system(s) nearest the construction area. Obtain Traffic Control Permits, if needed. To apply, contact the Development Services Department at 858.581.7111. See Bulletin #177, “How to Develop Your Water Pollution Control Plan.”

Compliance and create your SWPPP according to the storm water management plan. Follow your SWPPP. Adjust and modify BMPs as necessary. To report pollution in the storm drain, call the Think Blue Hotline at 619.235.1000 or 619.287.7555 www.ThinkBlue.org

Additional Tips to Support BMPs:

• Use“rinsing water”inconcrete washout areas as necessary.
• Keep the storm drain system(s) nearest the construction area clear of leaves, debris, rocks, etc.
• Check your construction plan to ensure that all measures are in place to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system.

Prevention Steps for Contractors

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Guide for the Construction Industry

The City of San Diego Development Services Department

Development Services Phone Numbers:

Appointments 619.446.5300
General /Technical Information 619.446.5000
DSD Field Office 858.492.5070
Records 619.446.5200
Inspection Scheduling 858.581.7111

The City of San Diego

Clean Construction

Development Services Department
Storm Water Department

Violations and Fines

Contractors, handymen, day laborers and property owners may be held responsible for violations and failure to implement minimum BMPs to prevent illegal discharges. Penalties may be assessed and lead to fines of up to $10,000 per day including expenses incurred by the City.

The City of San Diego

Development Services Department

Important Websites and Phone Numbers
City of San Diego, Development Services Dept. www.sandiego.gov/development-services
City of San Diego, Storm Water Division www.ThinkBlue.org
County of San Diego www.projectcleanwater.org
California State Water Board www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego
International BMP Database www.bmpdatabase.org
California Storm Water Quality Association www.cabmphandbooks.com
EDCO (Solid Waste) www.edcodisposal.com

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How to Develop Your Water Pollution Control Plan

The City of San Diego is working with contractors to implement what are known as Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all construction sites. BMPs are methods used to keep pollution out of storm drains and off City property, such as sidewalks, streets, parkways and alleys. Typical pollutants generated and not properly controlled at construction sites include sediment, concrete, paints, chemicals, sealants and trash.

Important Steps for Pollution Prevention

Every construction project must have a water quality control or pollution prevention plan (SWPCP or SWPPP) that addresses efforts to prevent site generated and construction related pollutants from leaving the construction site.

1. Understand Storm Water Compliance and create your SWPPP to match your construction site and project needs.
2. Identify the storm drains and the conveyance system(s) nearest the construction area.
3. Obtain Permits, including Traffic Control Permits, if needed.
4. Contact the inspector assigned to your project to answer any questions and ensure compliance.
5. Follow your SWPPP. Adjust and modify BMPs as necessary.

Typical List of Construction Site BMPs:

1. Conduct daily site inspections and clean areas as necessary.
3. Educate all employees, consultants and subcontractors about your site BMPs.
4. Develop an erosion control plan for wind and rain to prevent pollution from leaving the construction site.
5. Regularly maintain all BMPs at the project site.

Additional Tips to Support BMPs:

- Do not allow concrete, paints, chemicals, sediment, yard debris, etc. to enter the storm drain system (curb, gutter, sidewalk, street, drain or inlet). Store these products out of the rain so they will stay dry.
- Establish and use an adequately sized concrete washout area to contain all liquids on site.
- Provide erosion and sediment control to prevent these pollutants from leaving the site.
- Provide a stabilized entrance and exit for vehicles to prevent tracking dirt off site.
- Sweep-up surface areas regularly and place the waste in a dumpster. Don’t use hose water to clean.
- Store materials in a secure place to prevent seepage and spillage.
- Properly dispose of all materials. Do not dump unused or waste products on the ground, where water can carry them to the storm drain.
- When washing equipment on site, prevent wastewater from entering the storm drain system. Do not let the water leave the site.

Prevent Pollution and Avoid Fines — Remember the 3Cs

Control - The best line of defense is to prevent materials and debris from entering the storm drain via procedural methods or “good housekeeping.”

Contain - Isolate your work area to prevent discharges from leaving the site.

Capture - Clean up the work area by sweeping or vacuuming up any residue that has the potential to be discharged. Properly dispose of the residue, and check with the manufacturer, as needed, for disposal requirements.

Adopt these behaviors and help clean up our beaches, bays and watersheds.

Traffic Control Permits

If at any point, you (as a contractor or subcontractor) need to use the public right-of-way in order to work or store materials, you must apply for a Traffic Control Permit. To apply, contact the Development Services Department at (619) 446-5150.

Forms are also available online at www.sandiego.gov/development-services in the “Forms and Guidelines” section, under “Information Bulletins.”

See Bulletin #177, How to Obtain a Public Right-of-Way Permit for Traffic Control for information.
The City of San Diego’s Municipal Code §43.0301, (Storm Water Management and Discharge Control ordinance) prohibits pollutant discharges at work sites from flowing into storm drains and polluting neighborhood creeks, bays and the ocean. To stay in compliance with the law and keep your project on schedule, make sure BMPs are in place and functioning. Sites must be checked and maintained daily.

Concrete Trucks / Pumpers / Finishers
Traffic Control Permits are required for concrete pumps parked in public streets or alleys. BMPs such as tarps and gravel bags should be implemented to prevent materials and residue from entering into the storm drain system.

Dirt and Grading
Stockpiled dirt and gravel should be managed for dust control by spraying with water or covering. They should be covered or stabilized during the rainy season (October 1st - April 30th) and prior to rain events. Stabilize bare slopes with erosion control materials such as straw wattles or erosion control blankets. For those areas that are active and exposed, have a weather triggered action plan for installing additional BMPs prior to a rain event. Sites must have adequate measures at construction exits such as gravel and rattle plates to reduce tracking of dirt from the site onto City streets.

Earthmoving Equipment
Maintenance of any equipment should be conducted on site, and mud tracks and dirt trails left by equipment leading to and from the site should be cleaned up immediately.

Storm Drains
Storm drains must be protected at all times with perimeter controls, such as gravel bags (Sand bags are typically not used for inlet protection because they do not permit flow-through). Gravel bags should contain only clean gravel that is free of fine materials. Replace ruptured or damaged gravel bags and remove the debris from the right-of-way immediately. Remove storm drain protection after construction is complete and site is stabilized.

Building Materials/Staging Areas
Store containers and bagged materials on pallets rather than directly on the ground. Where practical, cover materials and provide secondary containment. Flooding must also be prevented by monitoring your site before, during and after rain events to ensure that BMPs are functioning and that there are not any safety issues.

Paint and Stucco
All paint and stucco materials stored on the site must be contained and covered. It is illegal to wash out paint brushes in the street or dump any residues in the sewer or the storm drain. Paint brushes and spray guns must be washed/cleaned out into a hazardous materials drum or back into its original container and disposed of properly.

Perimeter Controls
Gravel bags and silt fences are acceptable perimeter controls, and must be used to surround the entire site. Avoid running over perimeter controls with vehicles or heavy equipment, as they can damage the materials. Keep extra absorbent materials and/or a wet-dry vacuum on site to quickly pick up unintended spills.

Protecting water resources improves and preserves San Diego’s quality of life for our children and future generations. Questions? Contact Your Assigned Inspector or the Development Services Field Office at (858) 492-5070.