

# Heavy Equipment Operation

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



## Best Management Practices for the

- Vehicle and equipment operators
- Site supervisors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers

### Doing the Job Right

#### Site Planning and Preventive Vehicle Maintenance

- Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently for and repair leaks.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs, and vehicle and equipment washing off site where cleanup is easier.
- 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 separate containers, and properly dispose as hazardous waste (recycle whenever possible).
- Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment parts, or clean equipment. Use only water for any onsite cleaning.
- Cover exposed fifth wheel hitches and other oily or greasy equipment during rain events.

#### Storm water Pollution from Heavy Equipment on Construction Sites

Poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment that leak fuel, oil, antifreeze or other fluids on the construction site are common sources of storm drain pollution. Prevent spills and leaks by isolating equipment from runoff channels, and by watching for leaks and other maintenance problems. Remove construction equipment from the site as soon as possible.

# Landscaping, Gardening, and Pool Maintenance

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



## Best Management Practices for the

- Landscapers
- Gardeners
- Swimming pool/spa service and repair workers
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers
- Homeowners

### Doing the Right Job

#### General Business Practices

- Protect stockpiles and landscaping materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals indoors or in a shed or storage cabinet.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.
- Use temporary check dams or ditches to divert runoff away from storm drains.
- Protect storm drains with sandbags or other sediment controls.
- Re-vegetation is an excellent form of erosion control for any site.

#### Landscaping/Garden Maintenance

- Use pesticides sparingly, according to instructions on the label. Rinse empty containers, and use rinse water as product.
- Dispose of rinsed, empty containers in the trash. Dispose of unused pesticides as hazardous waste.
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings. Chip if necessary, and compost.
- In communities with curbside pick-up of yard waste, place clippings and pruning waste at the curb in approved bags or containers. OR, take to a landfill that composts yard waste. No curbside pickup of yard waste is available for commercial properties.

#### Storm Drain Pollution From Landscaping and Swimming Pool Maintenance

Many landscaping activities expose soils and increase the likelihood that earth and garden chemicals will run off into the storm drains during irrigation or when it rains. Swimming pool water containing chlorine and copper-based algaecides should never be discharged to storm drains. These chemicals are toxic to aquatic life.

# General Construction And Site Supervision

Best Management Practices For Construction



## Best Management Practices for the

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

#### Storm Drain Pollution from Construction Activities

Construction sites are common sources of storm water pollution. Materials and wastes that blow or wash into a storm drain, gutter, or street have a direct impact on local creeks and the Bay. As a contractor, or site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, you may be responsible for any environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.

### Doing The Job Right

#### General Principals

- 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 doesn't leave site or discharge to storm drains.

#### Advance Planning To Prevent Pollution

- Schedule excavation and grading activities for dry weather periods. To reduce soil erosion, plant temporary vegetation or place other erosion controls before rain begins. Use the *Erosion and Sediment Control Manual*, available from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, as a reference.
- Control the amount of runoff crossing your site (especially during excavation) by using berms or temporary or permanent drainage ditches to divert water flow around the site. Reduce storm water runoff velocities by constructing temporary check dams or berms where appropriate.
- Train your employees and subcontractors. Make these best management practices available to everyone who works on the construction site. Inform subcontractors about the storm water requirements and their own responsibilities.

#### Good Housekeeping Practices

- Designate one area of the site for auto parking, vehicle refueling, and routine equipment maintenance. The designated area should be well away from streams or storm drain inlets, bermed if necessary. Make major repairs off site.
- 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. Before it rains, sweep and remove materials from surfaces that drain to storm drains, creeks, or channels.
- Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces. Place trashcans and recycling receptacles around the site to minimize litter.

# Roadwork and Paving

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



## Best Management Practices for the

- Road crews
- Driveway/sidewalk/parking lot construction crews
- Seal coat contractors
- Operators of grading equipment, paving machines, dump trucks, concrete mixers
- Construction inspectors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers

### Doing The Job Right

#### General Business Practices

- Develop and implement erosion/sediment control plans for roadway embankments.
- Schedule excavation and grading work during dry weather.
- Check for and repair leaking equipment.
- Perform major equipment repairs at designated areas in your maintenance yard, where cleanup is easier. Avoid performing equipment repairs at construction sites.
- When refueling or when vehicle/equipment maintenance needs to be done on site, designate a location away from storm drains and creeks.
- Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment parts or clean equipment.
- Recycle used oil, concrete, broken asphalt, etc. whenever possible, or dispose of properly.

#### During Construction

- Avoid paving and seal coating in wet weather, or when rain is forecast, to prevent fresh materials from contacting stormwater runoff.
- Cover and seal catch basins and manholes when applying seal coat, slurry seal, fog seal, or similar materials.
- Protect drainage ways by using earth dikes, sand bags, or other controls to divert or trap and filter runoff.

#### Storm Drain Pollution from Roadwork

Road paving, surfacing, and pavement removal happen right in the street, where there are numerous opportunities for asphalt, saw-cut slurry, or excavated material to illegally enter storm drains. Extra planning is required to store and dispose of materials properly and guard against pollution of storm drains, creeks, and the Bay.

# Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



## Best Management Practices for the

- Homeowners
- Painters
- Paperhangers
- Plasterers
- Graphic artists
- Dry wall crews
- Floor covering installers
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers

### Doing The Job Right

#### Handling Paint Products

- Keep all liquid paint products and wastes away from the gutter, street, and storm drains. Liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes and must be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection facility (contact your local stormwater program listed on the back of this brochure).
- When thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags, and drop cloths may be disposed of as garbage in a sanitary landfill. Empty, dry paint cans also may be recycled as metal.
- Wash water from painted buildings constructed before 1978 can contain high amounts of lead, even if paint chips are not present. Before you begin stripping paint or cleaning pre-1978 building exteriors with water under high pressure, test paint for lead by taking paint scrapings to a local laboratory. See Yellow Pages for a state-certified laboratory.
- If there is loose paint on the building, or if the paint tests positive for lead, block storm drains. Check with the wastewater treatment plant to determine whether you may discharge water to the sanitary sewer, or if you must send it offsite for disposal as hazardous waste.

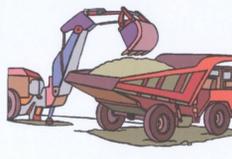
- Never clean a filter in the street or near a storm drain. Rinse cartridge and diatomaceous earth filters onto a dirt area, and spade filter residue into soil. Dispose of spent diatomaceous earth in the garbage.
- If there is no suitable dirt area, call your local wastewater treatment plant for instructions on discharging filter backwash or rinse water to the sanitary sewer.

#### Storm Drain Pollution from Paints, Solvents, and Adhesives

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife in local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. Toxic chemicals may come from liquid or solid products, such as cleaning residues or rags. Paint material and wastes, adhesives and cleaning fluids should be recycled when possible, or disposed of properly to prevent these materials from flowing into storm drains and watercourses.

# Earth-Moving And Dewatering Activities

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



## Best Management Practices for the

- Bulldozer, back hoe, and grading machine operators
- Dump truck drivers
- Site supervisors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers

### Doing The Job Right

#### General Business Practices

- Schedule excavation and grading work during dry weather.
- Perform major equipment repairs away from the job site.
- When refueling or vehicle/equipment maintenance must be done on site, designate a location away from storm drains.
- Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment parts, or clean equipment.

#### Practices During Construction

- Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary. Plant temporary vegetation for erosion control on slopes or where construction is not immediately planned.
- Protect down slope drainage courses, streams, and storm drains with wattles, or temporary drainage swales. Use check dams or ditches to divert runoff around excavations. Refer to the *Regional Water Quality Control Board's Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual* for proper erosion and sediment control measures.

#### Storm Drain Pollution from Earth-Moving Activities and Dewatering

Soil excavation and grading operations loosen large amounts of soil that can flow or blow into storm drains when handled improperly. Sediments in runoff can clog storm drains, smother aquatic life, and destroy habitats in creeks and the Bay. Effective erosion control practices reduce the amount of runoff crossing a site and slow the flow with check dams or roughened ground surfaces. Contaminated groundwater is a common problem in the Santa Clara Valley. Depending on soil types and site history, groundwater pumped from construction sites may be contaminated with toxics (such as oil or solvents) or laden with sediments. Any of these pollutants can harm wildlife in creeks or the Bay, or interfere with wastewater treatment plant operation. Discharge sediment-laden water from a dewatering site into any water of the state without treatment is prohibited.

# Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



## Best Management Practices for the

- Masons and bricklayers
- Sidewalk construction crews
- Patio construction workers
- Construction inspectors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers
- Concrete delivery/pumping workers

### Doing The Job Right

#### General Business Practices

- Wash out concrete mixers only in designated wash-out areas in your yard, away from storm drains and waterways, where the water will flow into a temporary waste pit in a dirt area. Let water percolate through soil and dispose of settled, hardened concrete as garbage. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse.
- Wash out chutes onto dirt areas at site that do not flow to streets or drains.
- Always store both dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains or waterways. Protect dry materials from wind.
- Secure bags of cement after they are open. Be sure to keep wind-blown cement powder away from streets, gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.
- Do not use diesel fuel as a lubricant on concrete forms, tools, or trailers.

#### Storm Drain Pollution from Fresh Concrete and Mortar Applications

Fresh concrete and cement-related mortars that wash into lakes, streams, or estuaries are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment. Disposing of these materials to the storm drains or creeks can block storm drains, causes serious problems, and is prohibited by law.

### During Construction

- Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use in a two-hour period.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths.
- When cleaning up after driveway or sidewalk construction, wash fines onto dirt areas, not down the driveway or into the street or storm drain.
- Protect applications of fresh concrete and mortar from rainfall and runoff until the material has dried.
- 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.
- When breaking up pavement, be sure to pick up all the pieces and dispose of properly. Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a landfill.
- Never bury waste material. Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams.

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay without treatment. Storm water pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or bay lands. Some common sources of this 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 the Santa Clara Valley Water District to educate local residents and businesses and fight storm water pollution. TO comply with this program, contractors most comply with the practices described in this drawing sheet.

### Spill Response Agencies

DIAL 9-1-1  
State Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours): 800-852-7550  
Santa Clara County Environmental Health Services: (408) 299-6930

### Local Pollution Control Agencies

County of Santa Clara Pollution Prevention Program: (408) 441-1195  
County of Santa Clara Integrated Waste Management Program: (408) 441-1198  
County of Santa Clara District Attorney Environmental Crimes Hotline: (408) 299-TIPS  
Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline: 1-800-533-8414  
Santa Clara Valley Water District: (408) 265-2600  
Santa Clara Valley Water District Pollution Hotline: 1-888-510-5151  
Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region: (510) 622-2300  
Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant: (650) 329-2598  
*Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford*  
City of Los Altos  
Building Department: (650) 947-2752  
Engineering Department: (650) 947-2780



### Los Altos Municipal Code Requirements

#### Los Altos Municipal Code Chapter 10.08.390 Non-storm water discharges

- Unlawful discharges. It shall be unlawful to discharge any domestic waste or industrial waste into storm drains, gutters, creeks, or San Francisco Bay. Unlawful discharges to storm drains shall include, but not be limited to, discharge from toilets; sinks; industrial processes; cooling systems; boilers; fabric cleaning; equipment cleaning; vehicle cleaning; construction activities, including, but not limited to, painting, paving, concrete placement, saw cutting and grading; swimming pools; spas; and fountains, unless specifically permitted by a discharge permit or unless exempted pursuant to guidelines published by the superintendent.
- Threatened discharges. It shall be unlawful to cause hazardous materials, domestic waste, or industrial waste to be deposited in such a manner or location as to constitute a threatened discharge into storm drains, gutters, creeks or San Francisco Bay. A "threatened discharge" is a condition creating a substantial probability of harm, when the probability and potential extent of harm make it reasonably necessary to take immediate action to prevent, reduce or mitigate damages to persons, property or natural resources. Domestic or industrial wastes that are no longer contained in a pipe, tank or other container are considered to be threatened discharges unless they are actively being cleaned up.

#### Los Altos Municipal Code Section 10.08.430 Requirements for construction operations.

- A spill response plan for hazardous waste, hazardous materials and uncontained construction materials shall be prepared and available at the construction sites for all projects where the proposed construction site is equal to or greater than one acre of disturbed soil and for any other projects for which the city engineer determines is necessary to protect surface waters. Preparation of the plan shall be in accordance with guidelines published by the city engineer.
- A storm water pollution prevention plan shall be prepared and available at the construction sites for all projects greater than one acre of disturbed soil and for any other projects for which the city engineer determines that a storm water management plan is necessary to protect surface waters. Preparation of the plan shall be in accordance with guidelines published by the city engineer.
- Prior approval shall be obtained from the city engineer or designee to discharge water pumped from construction sites to the storm drain. The city engineer or designee may require gravity settling and filtration upon a determination that either or both would improve the water quality of the discharge. Contaminated groundwater or water that exceeds state or federal requirements for discharge to navigable waters may not be discharged to the storm drain. Such water may be discharged to the sewer, provided that the requirements of Section 10.08.240 are met and the approval of the superintendent is obtained prior to discharge.
- No cleanup of construction debris from the streets shall result in the discharge of water to the storm drain system; nor shall any construction debris be deposited or allowed to be deposited in the storm drain system. (Prior code § 5-5.643)

Criminal and judicial penalties can be assessed for non-compliance.

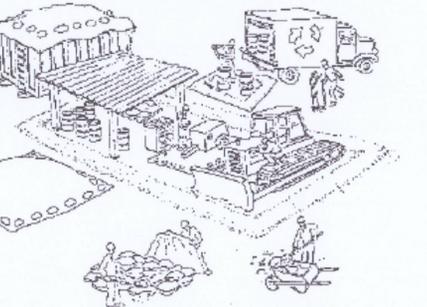
# Blueprint for a Clean Bay

Remember: The property owner and the contractor share ultimate responsibility for the activities that occur on a construction site. You may be held responsible for any environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.

# Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



## Santa Clara Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program



DESIGNED BY: LARRY LIND	APPROVED BY: 	CITY OF LOS ALTOS R.C.E.	DATE: OCTOBER, 2003
DRAWN BY: VICTOR CHEN	CITY ENGINEER	48056	SCALE: N.T.S.
CHECKED BY: JIM GUSTAFSON	SHEET	OF SHEETS	DRAWING NO.: