

Construction Waste



Construction sites and home repair can be sources of illegal discharges into the storm drain system. Construction waste - including concrete, paint, chemicals and sediment - can be hazardous to San Diego residents and our environment should it wash into storm drains.

Best Management Practices

Help reduce pollution and improve water quality by following these tips as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine:

- ◆ Avoid using water to clean.
- ◆ Sweep surfaces regularly and place waste in a dumpster or trash can.
- ◆ Do not allow concrete, paints, chemicals, dirt or gravel to enter the storm drain system (curb, gutter, sidewalk, street, drain or inlet).
- ◆ Store all materials on-site; not in the public right-of-way.
- ◆ Contain & cover materials to prevent leaks and spills, and keep materials dry.
- ◆ Store containers and bagged materials on pallets rather than directly on the ground.
- ◆ Provide erosion control, such as straw wattle or silt fences, to prevent sediment from leaving the site.
- ◆ Protect storm drain inlets with covers or berms. If rain is forecast, remove inlet protection to avoid the potential for flooding.
- ◆ Provide a stabilized entrance and exit for vehicles to prevent tracking dirt off site by using gravel or corrugated steel plates. Clean plates regularly and replace gravel when no longer effective.
- ◆ When washing equipment or tools, prevent wash water from leaving the site by establishing a washout area that contains all liquids.
- ◆ Waste material should be properly disposed of at the end of the day.



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to discharge construction debris or wash out materials such as paint, concrete, slurry, mortar, stucco, and plaster into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or any receiving water (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Control, Contain, Capture

- ◆ **Control:** Control mechanisms are processes and tools that allow you to manage your work area. This can be as simple as sectioning off your activity into smaller units, sweeping up debris, using a mop instead of a hose, or using a shut-off nozzle instead of letting water run from a hose.
- ◆ **Contain:** Contain your work area by isolating debris and pollutants. Containment could include blocking water and/or debris from leaving the area and entering the storm drain. Try using gravel bags, sandbags, straw wattle or a silt fence to prevent a potential discharge from leaving the area.
- ◆ **Capture:** Capture all potential water and/or debris by using a wet vacuum or washout area and sweeping or vacuuming up debris. Once the job is complete, be sure to clean up the area and properly dispose of debris.



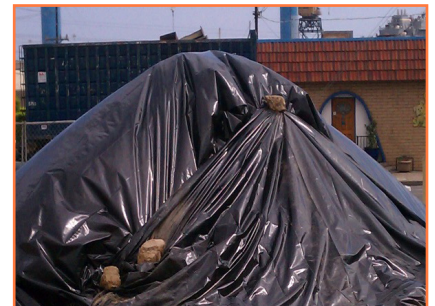
Dirt and Grading

Dirt and gravel stockpiled on-site should be managed for dust control and covered or stabilized during the rainy season or prior to a rain event. Stabilize bare slopes with erosion control materials, such as straw wattles or erosion control blankets.



Washout Area

The disposal of “wet” construction materials (paint, stucco and concrete) should be handled in a washout area. Be sure to designate the washout area before materials arrive. A washout area provides a space in which tools and equipment can be cleaned while containing the wash water and residue on-site. Use a berm with an impervious liner to contain the wet materials and prevent runoff. Avoid placing a washout area near a storm drain inlet. All dried materials should be properly disposed of at the end of the day.



Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants - including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids - all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

