



Best Management Practices (BMPS) For Construction Sites & Tenant Improvement Projects



**Environmental Services
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Construction Sites – Best Management Practices

Storm water pollution is a major concern to water quality. When water from construction sites is mixed with contaminants such as litter, sediment, construction debris, paints and chemicals, it creates storm water pollution.

Why are Construction Sites a Problem?

Activities and materials used on a construction site may be a source of pollutants, including but not limited to sediment; concrete and grout; paints, lacquers, and primers; herbicides and pesticides; soaps and detergents; wood preservatives; equipment fuels, lubricants, coolants, and hydraulic fluids; and cleaning solvents. Water from construction sites can be a major transporter of these pollutants, which can leak from heavy equipment, be spilled, or can be eroded by rain from exposed soil or stockpiles. Once released, pollutants can be transported into the receiving waters, where they may enter aquatic food chains and cause fish toxicity problems, contribute to algal blooms, impair recreational uses, and degrade drinking water sources.

How do Construction Activities Affect You?

The State issued Stormwater Permit requires cities, including the City of San Dimas, to implement a development construction program. San Dimas' Water Quality inspectors must ensure that stormwater pollution controls are in place at all construction sites during the construction phase.

The City of San Dimas developed this pamphlet to provide guidance to contractors, developers and homeowners on best management practices (BMPs) for pollution prevention at construction sites and home improvement/remodeling project sites.

Best Management Practices for Construction Sites

DON'Ts

- Ø Do not wash out concrete chutes into the street or storm drains. **Use proper concrete washouts.**
- Ø Do not throw food wrappers on the ground. **Use a trash can to dispose of food waste and wrappers.**
- Ø Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a storm drain, gutter or street. **Wash in proper washout areas.**
- Ø Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on-site! **Call your hauler to have it serviced.**
- Ø Never hose down dirty pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled. **Use dry cleanup methods (e.g. absorbent materials such as kitty litter, sawdust, or cornmeal) whenever possible.**
- Ø Never throw debris and waste into the storm drain.
- Ø Do not use asphalt rubble or other demolition debris on slopes to trap sediments.
- Ø Never use the street to stockpile dirt, sand and other construction materials.
- Ø Do not allow vehicles exiting construction sites to track dirt and mud to the street.

The photos below depict some of the most common activities that are found at many construction sites, remodels, and redevelopment projects and should be avoided.

Practices to Avoid...

Don'ts



Don't stockpile dirt and other materials in the street.



Don't track dirt and mud to the streets.

Don'ts



**Don't overfill
the trash
dumpsters.**



**Don't expose
construction
materials to the
rain.**



**Don't hose down
the pavement.
Do use a broom
or vacuum to
clean up spilled
materials.**

Best Management Practices for Construction Sites

DO's

- ✓ Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under secured plastic sheeting or temporary roofs.
- ✓ Whenever possible schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- ✓ Avoid contaminating clean runoff from areas adjacent to your site by using berms and temporary check dams to divert water flow around the site.
- ✓ Always cover and maintain dumpsters. Check thoroughly and frequently for leaks.
- ✓ Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately. This will prevent contaminated soil or residue on paved surfaces from blowing or washing into the storm drains.
- ✓ Identify all storm drains, drainage swales and creeks located near the construction site and make sure all subcontractors are aware of their locations to prevent pollutants from entering them.
- ✓ Use terracing, rip rap, gravel bags, rocks, straw bales, and/or temporary vegetation on slopes to reduce runoff velocity and trap sediments.
- ✓ Dispose of all waste properly. Many construction materials can be recycled.
- ✓ Train your employees and subcontractors in erosion and runoff control procedures.

These photos depict construction sites implementing best management practices (BMPs). You will observe that stock piles are covered by a tarp and/or gravel bags are utilized around the perimeter of the disturbed soil.



Do's

Do's

Gravel bags and fabrics to protect catch basins and storm drains inlets



Gravel bag barriers along a catch basin are used as a sediment control measure



On the steep slope, matting in combination with permanent vegetation are used for erosion control





Do's

Portable toilets shall have at least two levels of spill containment

Sidewalk closure signs to ensure public safety



Gravel bags and straw fiber rolls for runoff, erosion and sediment control

For more information about BMPs for construction activities or additional information please contact:

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