



STORM WATER AND CONSTRUCTION

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL



It is more efficient and cost-effective to prevent pollution than it is to try to correct problems later. Installing and maintaining simple BMPs and pollution prevention techniques on site can greatly reduce the potential for storm water pollution and can also save you money!

STORM WATER AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

As storm water flows over a construction site, it picks up pollutants such as sediment, debris and chemicals. High volumes of storm water can also cause stream bank erosion and have a negative impact on aquatic habitat. Preventing storm water pollution is an important responsibility at all construction sites.

Other practices to implement on site:

- Keep potential sources of pollution out of the rain to the maximum extent possible (e.g. inside a building, under a tarp, sealed in containers).
- Clearly identify a protected, lined area for concrete truck washout. This area should be located away from streams, storm drain inlets or ditches and clean out periodically.
- Park, refuel and maintain vehicles and equipment in a designated area on the site to minimize the area exposed to possible spills and fuel storage. Keep spill kits close by and clean up spills and leaks immediately, including those on pavement and earth surfaces.
- Practice good housekeeping. Keep the construction site free of litter, construction debris and leaking containers.
- Dispose of hazardous materials promptly and properly.



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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following information provides a summary of guidance on a variety of BMPs typically used on construction sites.

Construction Phasing

- Sequence construction activities so that soil is not exposed for long periods of time.
- Schedule or limit grading to small areas.
- Immediately seed areas that will be exposed for 7 days or longer
- Install sediment control practices before any soil disturbance begins.
- Schedule site stabilization activities immediately after the land has been graded to its final contours.



Site Stabilization

- Vegetate, mulch or otherwise stabilize all exposed areas as soon as land alterations have been completed.

Storm Drain Inlet Protection

- Use appropriate methods to protect the storm drain to filter out trash and debris
- When inlet filters are used, maintain them regularly.



Construction Entrances

- Remove mud and dirt from the tires of construction vehicles before exiting the construction site onto paved roadways, but do not use water.
- Inspect construction entrance to ensure it does not become buried in soil (Entrance should be maintained with gravel to retain soil on-site).



Silt Fence

- Inspect silt fences after each rainstorm and weekly
- Make sure the bottom of the silt fence is buried in the ground 6 inches.
- Make sure storm water does not flow around the silt fence during storm events.
- Don't place silt fence in the middle of a waterway.
- Attach fence securely to stakes. Stakes should be on the down slope side of the fence.



Vegetative Buffers

- Protect and install vegetative buffers along water bodies to slow and filter storm water runoff.
- Maintain buffers by replanting periodically to ensure their effectiveness (mowing discourages growth of woody vegetation, which actually takes up more runoff).



Slopes

- Rough grade or terrace slopes.
- Break up long slopes with sediment barriers or under drain.
- Divert storm water away from slopes.

Dirt Stockpiles

- Remove all dirt stockpiles.

Remember the Three C's

- **CONTROL**—prevent materials from entering storm drain system
- **CONTAIN**—isolate the work area
- **CAPTURE**—clean up the work area