

learn what you or your business can do to help prevent stormwater pollution

Recommended Practices for Construction Sites, Home Repair Industries, & General Contractors

The City of Sierra Vista, like many municipalities in the state, operates a “municipal separate stormwater sewer system” or MS4, which is designed to convey discharges that are composed entirely of stormwater, and is separate from the wastewater sewer system that conveys discharges from individual homes or businesses. It is important to note that MS4 stormwater **discharges receive no formal treatment** and flow directly into our community retention basins, city parks, washes, and rivers.

Poor training and material management practices at locations under repair or construction can cause pollutants such as trash, debris, sediment, oil, solvents, and paint waste to enter our stormwater system. These pollutants can build up in stormwater lines and cause blockages, negatively impact the operation of stormwater retention areas and drywells, or degrade water quality of our washes and rivers. Pathways of this pollution include the direct pouring or dumping by ill-trained employees, poor cleaning habits, improper storage of chemicals and waste, and poor maintenance of waste containers.

Many of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified below are non-structural and cost little or nothing to implement. This listing is not all inclusive and other non-structural and structural BMPs can be implemented to further reduce the potential of contributing to stormwater pollution.

DO

DON'T

Waste and Materials Management

Contain all demolition materials and waste construction and packing materials in covered trash dumpsters or roll-off bins.

Leave waste materials lying on the ground or street and allow these materials to blow or wash into the stormwater system.

Cover landscaping materials, such as crushed gravel or stone, or excavated soils. Store these materials on bare soil or plastic sheeting instead of pavement and in areas not susceptible to stormwater runoff.

Pile landscape materials, such as crushed gravel or stone, or excavated soils directly on paved surfaces, or leave these materials uncovered and blow/wash into the stormwater system.

Store building materials (roof rafters, framing boards, concrete bags, etc.) elevated above ground surface and in areas stormwater does not flow or accumulate.

Place building materials (roof rafters, framing boards, concrete bags, etc.) directly on bare soil or paved areas or in areas that stormwater may accumulate or flow.

Setup controlled concrete truck washout areas, frequently and properly dispose of this material, and keep these areas clean.

Establish concrete truck washout areas in areas where stormwater will flow, not maintain these areas, or allow these areas to overflow.

Keep solvents, paint cans, and bulk paint supplies sealed and store in areas protected by secondary containment.

Allow storage of open containers of paints or solvents or any conditions that may allow these chemicals to enter the stormwater system.

Daily sweep or vacuum sawdust and dirt inside building structures without completed walls and roofs.

Allow sawdust and dirt to be blown or washed into the stormwater system from the interior of incomplete building units.

Use brooms, blowers, or street sweeping machines to clean outdoor areas.*

Clean outdoor paved surfaces washing pollutants into the storm drains.

**Effective Best Management Practices
Construction & Home Repair Industries and General Contractors (continued)**

DO

DON'T

Vehicles

Have designated parking areas for all equipment and personal vehicles.

Have equipment and vehicles stored and parked throughout the site.

Place berms around vehicle parking areas and drip pans or plastic sheeting beneath equipment stored onsite to contain fluid leaks.

Allow leaky vehicles and equipment to be discharged from vehicle parking areas and flow into the stormwater system.

Cleanup oil leaks and fluid spills promptly using dry adsorbent materials.

Allow spilled materials to be tracked out of or throughout the site.

Keep absorbent cleanup materials readily accessible in all work areas.

Waste time responding to a spill or leak by looking for the appropriate cleanup materials.

Properly contain and dispose of used absorbent materials as required.

Pile spent absorbent materials on the ground or dispose of them uncontained in a dumpster.

Sediment Control

Install controls to keep sediment from being tracked-out onto street surfaces. Maintain these structures frequently, especially after rainfalls.

Allow track-out control structures to become laden with sediment and allow sediment to be tracked onto street or into the stormwater system.

Hire a street sweeping company to frequently wash interior project paved areas and affected arterial street.

Spray down streets with a hose or use a pressure washer to clean interior project paved areas or arterial streets.

Preserve natural site conditions such as trees, scrubs, and grasses as long and as much as possible.

Do mass grading and remove all natural ground covering plants until other soil stabilization techniques are utilized.

Install and maintain brush barriers/waddles, silt fences, check dams, catch basin sediment filters, traps or basins etc.

Allow sediment to impact existing stormwater structures or to cause erosion within or around those that are currently under construction.

Install riprap in areas where stormwater is channeled or discharged from pipes.

Leave areas where stormwater is channeled or discharged unprotected from erosion.

Install geotextile fabric, waddles, or other stabilizing devices on sloped areas and install surface landscape as soon as possible.

Allow the banks of an excavation or retention basin to fail by not installing slope stabilizing devices.

Control dust with silt fences and other wind breaking devices. Use only what is required to do the job when using water trucks for dust control.

Allow sediment to be blown into the air or over apply water during dust control activities and therefore be discharged to the stormwater system.

Staff Training

Train employees and proper materials management, storage, disposal, and spill cleanup procedures.

Assume your staff knows or will implement the proper materials management, storage, disposal, and spill cleanup procedures.

Post a listing of Best Management Practices where all employees will have reference.

Expect your employees to remember the proper ways of cleaning and handling waste.

* See the *Recommended Practices for Cleaning Outdoor Areas* guide.

Facts

It is easier and cheaper to prevent stormwater pollution than to clean it up.

Your operations are not "safe" from stormwater pollution regulations.

Developing, implementing, and maintaining a StormWater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) onsite, even if your operations are not required to do so, would help keep your operations from negatively impacting the stormwater system.