



Stormwater Pollution Best Management Practices

Construction and Development Businesses

Soil, cement wash, asphalt, oil and other hazardous debris from construction sites often make their way into the storm drain system, and flow largely untreated into local waterways and Puget Sound. Follow these best management practices to prevent pollution, protect public health and avoid fines or legal action. Many construction sites are required to apply for a Stormwater General Permit from the Department of Ecology. Please contact the City's Planning Department at 360-754-4180 to see if this applies to your site.



Material Storage:

- Keep construction materials and debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains.
- Cover exposed stockpiles of soil, sand or gravel and excavated material with plastic sheeting, protected from rain, wind and runoff.
- During wet weather, un-worked soils should not be exposed to the elements for more than 2 days.

Erosion Prevention:

- Avoid excavation or grading during wet weather.
- Plant temporary vegetation or add hydro mulch on slopes where construction is not immediately planned, and plant permanent vegetation once excavation and grading are complete.
- Construct diversion dikes to channel runoff to a detention basin and around the construction site.
- Use gravel approaches, or construction entrances, where truck traffic is frequent to reduce soil compaction and limit the tracking of sediment into the streets.
- If sediment does reach the street, employ aggressive street sweeping quickly to minimize the possibility of sediment reaching the storm drain system.

Spill Clean-up and Prevention:

- Use a drip pan and funnel when draining or pouring fluids.
- Sweep up spills of dry material instead of hosing.
- Be ready for spills by preparing and using spill containment and cleanup kits that include safety equipment and dry cleanup materials such as kitty litter or sawdust.
- To report serious spills, call 911.

Equipment Maintenance:

- Maintain and refuel vehicles and equipment at a single location on-site, away from the street, gutter, storm drains and other sensitive areas.
- Perform major equipment repairs and vehicle washings off-site.
- Inspect vehicles and equipment frequently for leaks, and prevent leaks from stored vehicles by draining gas, hydraulic oil, transmission, and brake and radiator fluids prior to storage.

Wise Use and Disposal of Materials:

- Reduce waste by ordering only the amounts of materials needed for the job.
- Use recycled or recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Recycle broken asphalt, concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation. Call Thurston County Water and Waste Management at 360-357-2491 for locations.
- Dispose of hazardous materials through Thurston HazoHouse or other means in accordance with the construction permit.
- Non-recyclable materials should be taken to a landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste. For recycling and disposal information, call the Thurston County HazoHouse at 360-786-5494.

Concrete and Mortar Disposal:

- Never dispose of cement washout into driveways, streets, gutters or drainage ditches.
- Wash concrete mixers and equipment only in specified washout areas, where the water flows into lined containment ponds.
- Cement wash water can be recycled by pumping it back into cement mixers for reuse.

For additional water resources information:

City of Tumwater Water Resources
(360) 754-4140 or visit our website
www.ci.tumwater.wa.us