How Your Business Can Prevent Stormwater Pollution

cleanwater
PROGRAM

Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay

YOU CAN PREVENT WATER POLLUTION!

Storm drains flow directly into creeks and the Bay without any treatment. Because of this direct connection, water and other wastes that flow into a storm drain can easily cause pollution. **It is the responsibility of your business to ensure that only rainwater enters the stormdrains near your operation.** If wastes and wash waters from your business practices enter the storm drain system, you may have to pay for clean up costs and fines, have permits revoked, or even go to jail for causing stormwater pollution.

The pollution prevention practices outlined in this booklet will help your business stay in compliance with laws designed to protect stormwater and the environment. The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff make it easy for businesses to understand the water pollution regulations that affect them. If you have questions, contact your local stormwater agency (See Local Regulatory Contacts, page 7).

Storm Drain: An outdoor drain that flows directly to creeks and the Bay.

Sanitary Sewer Drain: An indoor drain that flows to the sewage treatment plant.

Sewer or Storm Drain?

In order to choose the most appropriate practice, it is important to determine whether a drain is a storm drain or a sanitary sewer drain. In general, drains inside the building are connected to the sanitary sewer, and outside drains (except for capped sanitary sewer "cleanouts") are connected to the storm drain system. Sanitary sewer cleanouts are usually 6 inches in diameter or smaller, and storm drain inlets are larger, but there are exceptions.

If your business has floor drains, contact your local sanitary sewer treatment agency for requirements for discharging to the sanitary sewer.

GENERAL POLLUTION PREVENTION

* Absorbent that was used on a small spill is being swept up for disposal. Used absorbents may be hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.

FIVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. Keep your business neat and clean – it saves time and money and prevents pollution.

2. Protect your storm drain inlets from pollution of any kind. Remember, only rain down the storm drain.

3. Be prepared! Keep spill cleanup materials easily accessible.

4. Use dry methods to clean up spills whenever possible. Never wash spills down the storm drain.

5. Train staff regularly on these practices.

Perform work indoors or under cover whenever possible, to avoid exposure to rainfall, runoff, and wind. If outdoor work generates small particles or dust, the particles must be contained and vacuumed.

The best practices listed below are critical to protecting our water quality:

- Label/stencil each storm drain inlet to remind workers and customers that dumping is prohibited.

- Routinely inspect and clean outdoor areas:

    - Storm drain inlets (grates and sumps),

    - Loading docks and shipping/receiving areas,

    - Work areas,

    - Chemical storage areas,

    - Waste storage and recycling areas, and

    - Treatment devices for proper functioning.

- Keep surfaces clean by sweeping, vacuuming or mopping – never wash down surfaces to gutter, storm drain inlet, street, or waterway.

- For pressure washing of pavement or other surfaces hire a cleaning contractor trained

to use pollution prevention practices. Make sure all wash water is collected for proper disposal.

- Pick up litter and trash daily.

- Sweep parking areas and gutters at least monthly and before it rains

- Prevent spills when transferring liquids by using drip pans, secondary containment, and absorbents.

- Clean up spills immediately with rags, absorbents*, or wet/dry vacuum. Do not allow fluids to accumulate or run across surfaces. Never wash spills down or allow spills to flow into a storm or sanitary sewer drain inlet. Clean up absorbents immediately following their use.

- Mobile washing of some types of equipment, such as roof exhaust equipment or shopping carts, is acceptable if all washwater is contained, vacuumed up, and directed to the sanitary sewer.

- Wash equipment indoors, at a utility or mop sink or location where washwaters drain to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local sanitary sewer treatment authority for approval (See page 7).

MATERIAL STORAGE

- Store materials indoors if possible.
- If stored outdoors, store materials on a paved surface, in a fully enclosed container, and covered to prevent contact with rainfall and runoff.
- Keep containers out of pooled or standing water. Regularly inspect containers for cracks, corrosion, or leaky seams.
- Use secondary containment when storing fluids outside. Keep container lids, caps, and openings closed when not in use.
- Apply caution and control when transferring liquids to minimize spill potential.
- Have clean up materials easily accessible. Regularly train employees on spill clean up procedures.
- Store all items as far as possible from storm drain inlets.
- Use drip pans under outdoor work or storage areas where there is the potential for spills and leaks.

IF YOU MUST STORE MATERIALS OUTDOORS:

1. Protect materials from rain and runoff.
2. Place primary containers of liquids within secondary containment.
3. Do not place near storm drain inlets.
4 Keep spill cleanup materials in easily accessible areas.
5. Check with local municipality for compliance with the fire and building codes.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

TIP

- Train new employees upon hiring to use these practices and have annual refresher trainings.
- Post signs to remind employees to properly store materials and clean spills

OUTDOOR WASTE STORAGE AND RECYCLING

WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING:

1. Don't dispose of any liquids or solids in storm drain. Recycle, whenever possible.
2. Divide wastes by type and store separately in sealed containers.
3. Use a big enough dumpster so you can keep the lids closed.
4. Replace leaking dumpsters.
5. Schedule regular pickups.

- Inspect the garbage and recycling area *daily* for dropped wastes, overfilled or leaking dumpsters and trash compactors, and dumpsters with open lids.
- Pick up dropped wastes and sweep the dumpster area.
- Make sure dumpsters are not overfilled and lids are kept closed.
- Prevent and clean up any trash compactor leachate drippings.
- Replace or repair leaking dumpster.
- Use a licensed company to haul and recycle or dispose of wastes.
- Rinse waste containers in areas that drain to sanitary sewer.
- When available, keep dumpsters inside the enclosure at all times when not being serviced by the garbage company.
- Provide recycle and green waste dumpsters whenever possible.

LITTER

Litter and trash are bad for business and harm the health of creeks and the Bay.

- Provide enough trash and cigarette receptacles for customers and employees. All outdoor receptacles must be covered.

- Pick up litter *daily*. Maintain the sidewalk and parking lots in front of your business so that they are free of litter and dirt. Don't wash into the street or storm drain.

- Encourage your customers to bring their own reusable bags instead of using polystyrene containers and plastic bags. These types of disposables are increasingly being banned because of the pollution they create.

LANDSCAPING AND SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

- Know whether your landscaping is specifically designed to minimize and treat stormwater runoff, and, if it is, make sure it is maintained as designed.

- Follow Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Program practices. Visit www.bayfriendly.org.

- Use less toxic alternatives to pesticides. For more information on integrated pest management, visit www.ourwaterourworld.org.

- Do not overwater– maintain sprinklers to avoid pavement watering.

- Clean up fallen leaves and remove prunings for composting or disposal with green wastes. Don't dispose of these materials in the street, a storm drain or creek.

LOCAL REGULATORY CONTACTS

Local Stormwater Agencies

Alameda ....(510) 747-7930
Albany ....(510) 528-5770
Berkeley ....(510) 981-7460
Dublin ....(925) 833-6630
Emeryville ....(510) 596-3728
Fremont ....(510) 494-4570
Hayward ....(510) 881-7900
Livermore ....(925) 960-8100
Newark ....(510) 578-4286
Oakland ....(510) 615-5566
Piedmont ....(510) 420-3050
Pleasanton ....(925) 931-5500
San Leandro ....(510) 577-3401
Unincorporated Alameda County. ....(510) 567-6700
Union City ....(510) 675-5308
Clean Water Program ....(510) 670-5543

Local Hazardous Waste Agencies

Alameda County Environmental Health ....(510) 567-6702
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin,
Emeryville, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, San Lorenzo,
and Sunol.)
Berkeley Toxics ....(510) 981-7460
Fremont Fire ....(510) 494-4213
Hayward Fire ....(510) 583-4910
Livermore-Pleasanton Fire ....(925) 454-2362
San Leandro ....(510) 577-3401
Union City ....(510) 675-5360

Local Sanitary Sewer Treatment Agencies

East Bay Municipal Utility District ....(510) 287-1651
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, and
Piedmont. Also contact your City regarding sewer connection.)
Dublin-San Ramon Services District ....(925) 828-0515
(Serves Dublin. Also contact City of Pleasanton)
Hayward ....(510) 881-7900
Livermore ....(925) 960-8100
Oro Loma Sanitary District ....(510) 276-4700
(Serves communities of San Lorenzo, Castro Valley,
unincorporated San Leandro and Hayward)
Castro Valley Sanitary District ....(510) 537-0757
San Leandro ....(510) 577-3401
Union Sanitary District ....(510) 477-7500
(Serves Fremont, Newark and Union City)

Your business may need to be regulated by several State and Local agencies for environmental compliance. In addition to following these stormwater pollution prevention practices, you may need to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's Stormwater Industrial General Permit.

Call (916) 341-5538 for more information.

CONSIDER BECOMING A GREEN BUSINESS

The Bay Area Green Business Program certifies small to medium-sized businesses as green and recognizes Green Businesses through promotion and public recognition. To become a certified green business, Program staff will verify that your business is complying with environmental regulations and taking actions to conserve resources and prevent pollution. For more information, visit www.greenbiz.ca.gov.

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Simple changes to your operations and maintenance can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org

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