Water Quality Regulations for Construction Sites

Dear Contractor,

The North County Storm Water Program (NCSWP) is a collective of jurisdictions in northern San Diego County working together to protect our watersheds. We believe that reducing pollution is critical to maintaining our communities’ way of life.

It is our hope that this brochure will help you identify activities that are recognized to cause water pollution and implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize their impact. By providing you with these tools, we hope to make your job easier while keeping our waterways clean.

Each jurisdiction will be inspecting their construction sites to ensure the protection of water quality. We look forward to seeing the BMPs presented in this brochure implemented at your sites.

Together we have the ability to preserve and improve the quality of life in our communities.

Sincerely,
The North County Storm Water Program

Contact Phone Numbers:

- City of Carlsbad: 760-602-2719
- City of Encinitas: 760-553-2787
- City of Oceanside: 760-435-5800
- City of Solana Beach: 858-720-2470
- City of Vista: 760-726-5340
- City of San Marcos: 760-744-9550
- City of Del Mar: 858-755-9133

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Only Rain in the Storm Drain
Site Overview

Protecting our water resources improves our quality of life and preserves the local environment for our children and future generations.

Untreated storm water and/or unintentional spills at work sites can flow into storm drains and pollute creeks, rivers, lakes, lagoons or the ocean. These discharges are prohibited by law.

The following drawing illustrates Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for construction sites in North County cities to protect storm drains and minimize pollution. Please check for local requirements.

Materials Storage

All building materials and fuel stored on the site must be contained and covered. It is illegal for contractors to wash out paint brushes in the street or dump any residues in the storm drain. Paint brushes and spray guns must be contained and disposed of properly.

Perimeter Controls

Gravel bags, silt fences, and straw wattles are acceptable perimeter controls, and must be used to surround the entire site to control run-on and run-off. Avoid running over perimeter controls with vehicles or heavy equipment, as they can damage the materials. Keep extra absorbent materials and/or a wet/dry vacuum on site to quickly pick up unintended spills. Sites must also be checked and maintained daily.

Building Materials/Staging Areas

Construction materials must be stored on site at all times unless a right-of-way permit has been obtained. Building materials should always be covered when not in use to prevent run-off caused by wind or rain. To apply for a right-of-way permit, contact the appropriate department of your local jurisdiction.

Dumpsters/Port-a-Potty

Always cover dumpsters with a rollback tarp. Areas around dumpsters should be swept daily. Perimeter controls should also surround dumpsters and all Port-a-Potties. If dumpsters or Port-a-Potties are kept on the street, right-of-way permits are needed.

Tracking Controls

All entrances and exits on the site must have coarse gravel or steel shaker plates to limit soil and sediment tracking.

Concrete Trucks/Pumpers

Concrete pumpers must be surrounded by perimeter controls, such as gravel bags. Plastic sheets also must be placed beneath concrete pumpers at all times, and residual materials must be cleaned up as well. Washout areas must be used whenever cleaning trucks.

Washout Area

The disposal of “wet” construction materials should be handled in the washout area. This includes paint, stucco and concrete. Use a berm and/or plastic sheet to collect and contain liquids and prevent run-off in nearby areas. The washout area must be checked and maintained daily to ensure compliance. Washout liquids must be disposed of properly.

Dirt and Grading

Mounds of dirt or gravel should be stored on site. These materials should also be covered each day with a tarp, coconut mat, or other form of protection. Visqueen and/or tarps must be available and on site to cover 125% of exposed areas during the rainy season (October – April).

Earthmoving Equipment

All earthmoving equipment should be stored on site. Maintenance should also be conducted on the site, and tracks and trails left by equipment leading to and from the site should be cleaned up immediately.

Storm Drains

Storm drains must be protected at all times with perimeter controls, such as gravel bags or straw wattles. Sediment accumulation should be removed frequently.

These guidelines are generalized. Please check specific requirements with your local jurisdiction.