PREVENT POLLUTION AND AVOID FINES (3 C’S)

Control: The best line of defense is to use good housekeeping practices and sediment/erosion control BMPs to prevent materials and debris from entering the storm drain.

Contain: Isolate your work area to prevent discharges from leaving the site. Store materials out of the rain and in secondary containment, if necessary.

Capture: Sweep or vacuum up any material that could possibly run offsite. Dispose of wastes properly by checking product labels for disposal requirements.

Additional Tips to Support BMPs:

- Schedule site stabilization activities, such as landscaping, to be completed immediately after the land has been graded to its final contour.
- Inspect & maintain silt fences and straw wattles after each rainstorm. Make sure stormwater is not flowing around these devices or other vegetative buffers. Cover all dirt piles to protect from wind and rain.
- Provide a stabilized vehicle path with controlled access to prevent tracking of dirt offsite. Properly size site entrance BMPs for anticipated vehicles.
- Minimize amount of vegetation cleared from the site. Protect and install vegetative buffers along waterbodies to slow and filter stormwater runoff.
- Properly dispose of all waste materials. Never dump unused or waste product on the ground or in a storm drain. Don’t hose off surfaces to clean. Sweep and place waste in dumpster.
- Break up long slopes with sediment barriers. Install structural BMPs to trap sediment on downslope sides of the lot.
- When in doubt, contact local jurisdiction for guidance.

ONLINE RESOURCES

California Storm Water Quality Association - www.cabmphandbooks.com
International BMP Database - www.bmpdatabase.org
California State Water Board - www.waterboards.ca.gov

Every construction project must have an erosion and sediment control plan to prevent soil and materials from leaving the site. Basic steps for this plan include:

1. Understand local jurisdictional stormwater management requirements and create your plan to match your construction site and project needs.
2. Identify the storm drains and the conveyance system(s) nearest the construction site area and provide plan to protect them from worksite pollutants.
3. Obtain all local jurisdictional permits, including traffic control permits, if needed.
4. Schedule construction activities so that the soil is not exposed for long period of time. Limit grading to small areas; install key sediment control practices before site grading begins.
5. Contact the inspector assigned to your project to answer any questions and ensure compliance. Modify BMPs as job requires.

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Prior to staging any materials or equipment in the right-of-way (such as dumpsters or trucks), please contact the applicable local jurisdiction to learn of any temporary encroachment permit or traffic control requirements necessary for right-of-way staging and loading areas, applicable stormwater BMPs and safety plan review requirements. Provide a stabilized vehicle path with controlled access to prevent tracking of dirt offsite. Properly size site entrance BMPs for anticipated vehicles.

All paint and stucco material stored on the site must be contained and covered. It is illegal to dump unused paint or stucco in the sewer or storm drain system. Do not wash out brushes in the street or dump any residues in the storm drain. Paint brushes and spray guns must be washed/cleaned out into a hazardous materials drum or back into the original container and disposed of properly.

Gravel bags, silt fences and straw wattles (weighted down) are acceptable perimeter controls, and must be used to surround the entire site. Avoid running over perimeter controls with vehicles or heavy equipment as they can damage the materials. Keep extra absorbent materials and/or wet/dry vacuum on site to quickly pick up unintended spills.

Construction material must be stored on site at all times. Building materials should always be covered when not in use to prevent runoff caused by wind or rain. Flooding must also be prevented by monitoring the site before, during, and after rain events to ensure that BMPs are functioning and that there are no safety issues.

BMPs such as tarps and gravel bags should be implemented to prevent materials and residue from entering into the storm drain system. The disposal of “wet” construction materials should be handled in the washout area. This includes paint, stucco, and concrete. Use a berm with an impervious liner to contain wet materials and prevent runoff in nearby areas. The washout area must be checked and maintained daily to ensure compliance. All dried materials must be disposed of at the landfill.

Mounds of dirt or gravel should be stored on site and sprayed daily with water to prevent excessive dust. During the rainy season (October 15th—April 15th) these materials should be covered. For those areas that are active and exposed, a wet weather triggered action plan including additional BMPs should be in place to protect the site during a rain event. Sites must have adequate tracking control to prevent the transport of dirt/gravel from the site.

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

Storm drains must be protected at all times with perimeter controls, such as gravel bags. Sand bags are typically not used for inlet protection because they do not permit flow-through. Replace ruptured or damaged gravel bags and remove the debris from the right-of-way immediately.

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

Questions? Contact the local Public Works Dept. in the jurisdiction your project resides or the MRSWMP Program Manager.