



**Best Management Practices (BMPs)  
for  
Construction Sites & Home  
Remodeling Projects**



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## Construction Sites – Best Management Practices

Storm water pollution is a major concern to water quality. Water when mixed with contaminants such as litter, sediment, construction debris, paints and chemicals creates storm water pollution.

### Why are Construction Sites a Problem?

Construction activities have the potential to impact water quality. Pollutants including trash, metals, solvents, vehicle fluids, as well as pesticides, nutrients and bacteria from landscaping activities are associated with construction activities. Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, which creates multiple problems when it enters natural water bodies. Sediment also carries with it other work site pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, cement wash, asphalt, and car fluids like motor oil, grease, and fuel.

### How do Construction Activities Affect You?

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has developed this Construction Pamphlet to provide guidance to contractors, developers and homeowners on best management practices (BMPs) for construction sites and remodels.

The following are some general principles that can significantly reduce pollution from construction activity and help make compliance with storm water regulation easy.



For more information about BMP's for construction activities or additional brochures, please contact the the Building & Safety Department 310.544.5280

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## Construction Sites a Threat to Water Quality?

How often do you see construction activities occur in your neighborhood? It is safe to say most of us do. But do we know that these activities can pose a threat to water quality? The photos below illustrate some of the most common activities that are found at many construction sites, remodels, and redevelopment projects and should be avoided.

### Practices to Avoid...



Don't stockpile dirt and other materials in the street.

Don't track dirt and mud to the streets.



Don't overfill  
the trash  
dumpsters.



Don't expose  
construction  
materials to  
the rain.

Don't hose down  
the pavement. Do  
use a broom to  
clean up spilled  
materials.



## Best Management Practices for Construction Sites

### *DO's*

- ✓ Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under secured plastic sheeting or temporary roofs.
- ✓ Whenever possible schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- ✓ Avoid contaminating clean runoff from areas adjacent to your site by using berms and temporary check dams to divert water flow around the site.
- ✓ Always cover and maintain dumpsters. Check thoroughly and frequently for leaks.
- ✓ Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately. This will prevent contaminated soil or residue on paved surfaces from blowing or washing into the storm drains.
- ✓ Identify all storm drains, drainage swales and creeks located near the construction site and make sure all subcontractors are aware of their locations to prevent pollutants from entering them.
- ✓ Use terracing, rip rap, sand bags, rocks, straw bales, and/or temporary vegetation on slopes to reduce runoff velocity and trap sediments.
- ✓ Dispose of all waste properly. Many construction materials, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation can be recycled.
- ✓ Train your employees and subcontractors in erosion and runoff control procedures.





Spill containment for portable toilets



Sidewalk closure signs to ensure public safety



Sandbags and straw fiber rolls for runoff, erosion and sediment control

## Best Management Practices for Construction Sites

### ***DON'Ts***

- Ø Do not wash out concrete chutes into the street or storm drains.
- Ø Do not throw food wrappers on the ground. Use a trash can to dispose of food waste and wrappers.
- Ø Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a storm drain, gutter or street.
- Ø Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on-site!
- Ø Never hose down dirty pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods (e.g. absorbent materials such as kitty litter, sawdust, or cornmeal) whenever possible.
- Ø Never throw debris and waste or wash sweepings into the storm drain.
- Ø Do not use asphalt rubble or other demolition debris on slopes to trap sediments.
- Ø Never use the street to stockpile dirt, sand and other construction materials that can contribute to storm water pollution.
- Ø Do not allow vehicles exiting construction sites to track dirt and mud to the street.



## Best Management Practices (BMPs) at Work

These photos depict construction sites implementing best management practices (BMPs). You will observe that stock piles are covered by a tarp and/or sandbags are utilized around the perimeter of the disturbed soil.



Sandbags and fabrics to protect catch basins and storm drains



Sandbag barriers along a catch basin are used as a sediment control measure

On the steep slope, matting in combination with permanent vegetation are used for erosion control

