THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY’S GUIDE
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Many people in the construction trades don’t realize their practices can pollute our local streams, creeks, lakes, river, or the ocean. This guide provides general BMPs for construction projects.

Construction activities generate pollutants that can be picked up while watering or by stormwater runoff and transported to the nearest storm drain inlet and into our waterways. You can help reduce water pollution year-round by implementing BMPs. Included in this guide is a list of typical BMPs utilized in the Construction Industry. These BMPs are required by your project’s Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (E&SCP) and/or Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Additional post-construction stormwater control measures (SCMs) are required for retaining and treating stormwater runoff from completed projects to prevent long-term impacts to water bodies. SCMs are different than active construction BMPs because their function is to capture and lessen pollutants in runoff from the completed project long into the future.

Do you know? Stormwater requirements are based on total square feet (SF) of soil disturbance and/or the creation or replacement of impervious surfaces. It’s important to check city or county grading/building permit exemptions and requirements to stay compliant with codes and standards.

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT SIZE</th>
<th>STORMWATER REQUIREMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Any land disturbing activities that may generate pollutants but do not require a grading/building permit&lt;br&gt;Refer to city or county code for Grading/Building Permit Exemptions</td>
<td>No Site Plan is required&lt;br&gt;Discharges of pollutants are prohibited under city and county code&lt;br&gt;Implement construction BMPs as appropriate to prevent pollutant discharges and violation of city and county code</td>
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<tr>
<td>All projects requiring a Grading/Building Permit&lt;br&gt;Refer to city or county code for Grading/Building Permit Requirements</td>
<td>Site Plan required&lt;br&gt;Implement construction BMPs per city or county code&lt;br&gt;Prepare and get approval for E&amp;SCP by city or county</td>
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<td>All large projects ≥ 1 acre soil disturbance OR &lt; 1 acre but part of a larger common plan of development (≥ 1 total acres of disturbance)&lt;br&gt;Refer to Construction General Permit Requirements</td>
<td>Large projects must be permitted before starting any soil disturbances&lt;br&gt;Implement construction BMPs specified within an approved SWPPP&lt;br&gt;SWPPPs developed pursuant to the Construction General Permit may substitute for the E&amp;SCP for those projects where a SWPPP is required, if it contains the requirements of the E&amp;SCP</td>
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Note: Projects that create or replace ≥ 2,500SF or more of impervious surface collectively over the entire project site are Regulated Projects and must comply with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Post Construction Requirements (R3-2013-0032). Regulated Projects must submit a Stormwater Control Plan. Applicants should follow the County of Santa Barbara’s Stormwater Technical Guide for Low Impact Development (LID) to assist with the Stormwater Control Plan.

EROSION CONTROL BMPs

- Conduct grading activities during the dry months to avoid soil disturbance during the rainy season (October–May).
- Schedule earth moving and construction activities in phases to minimize soil disturbance at any one time.
- Mark areas of vegetation to be preserved, install tree protection fencing and/or riparian area barrier where needed.
- Apply temporary mulch, hydoseed, and/or soil binders to protect soil from wind or water (rain or irrigation) exposure until permanent stabilization is established. Make sure to follow manufacturer’s application instructions, avoid overspray, and reapply as needed.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT OUR PARTNERING AGENCIES
WANT TO KNOW MORE?
The Cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, and Solvang and the County of Santa Barbara have extensive Stormwater Management Programs, with more information and useful tools to help your business on their websites!

Spill Prevention and Clean Up
- Keep a spill kit on site and available for use
- Clean spills or drips immediately
- Designate a key employee to monitor the management and clean up of oil or vehicle fluids
- Use dry methods for cleaning up spills (absorbent, sweep) rather than rinsing down areas

TIP: If you coordinate the implementation of BMPs with each phase of construction, it will help prevent sediment from leaving the site!

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

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SEEDMENT CONTROL BMPs
- Key-in (trench and stake) fiber rolls and silt fences properly.
- Inspect the construction site daily. Remove any sediment accumulation on roadways, driveways, sidewalks, gutters, and such by sweeping (manual or street sweeper). Do not use hoses to rinse down impervious surfaces!
- Regularly inspect, repair, and/or replace storm drain inlet protection (screens, filter fabric, and gravel bag berms).
- Install appropriately sized sediment/detention basin(s) to allow fine sediment to settle for up to 48 hours before the runoff is released if appropriate for a project.

TRACKING CONTROL BMPs
- Stabilize all construction entrance(s)/exit(s) by installing rumble plates and/or 3-inch rock to eliminate off-site tracking of dirt and sediment.
- Regularly inspect all stabilized construction entrance(s)/exit(s) and remove sediment accumulation within rumble plates or rock base when 1/3 full.

RUN-ON AND RUN-OFF CONTROL BMPs
- Establish run-on controls (earth dikes or drainage swales) to redirect rainwater away from loose soil in disturbed areas.
- Properly grade the site to contain run-off on site where it can be managed.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING BMPs
- Routinely inspect temporary concrete/paint/drywall/plaster/stucco washout areas (WAs) for leaks and coverage at the end of each day and/or prior to rain. Maintain WAs with a minimum freeboard of 4 inches for above grade and 12 inches for below grade facilities. Don’t forget to change out when 75% full and clean up spills when they happen.
- Inspect and remove trash/debris accumulation regularly throughout your site and dispose of properly.
- Cover trash cans, dumpsters and/or roll-offs at the end of each day and/or prior to rain. Empty regularly so trash/debris are not dispersed on or off-site.

NON-STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
- Maintain vehicles to prevent leaks and spills. Keep drip pans and spill kits readily available.
- Designate a vehicle and equipment cleaning/fueling/maintenance area that cannot discharge to street or storm drain.
- Periodically inspect potable water/irrigation sources (water truck or hoses) to ensure no leaks and no excess water irrigation and/or water line discharges.
- Use approved dewatering operations to manage accumulated stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges at construction sites (please check local and/or state permit/plan requirements).

STABILIZE DISTURBED AREAS
- Use wet suppression frequently (water truck or hoses) for dust control to stabilize disturbed areas until establishment of permanent vegetation, pavers or completion of asphalt, concrete or chip and seal.

POST-CONSTRUCTION BMPs
- Protect post-construction measures such as underground chambers or bioretention basins from sedimentation during construction activities or until site is stabilized.
- Keep post-construction measures off-line until you’ve stabilized the surrounding areas.
- Minimize compaction of soils in the post-construction measure area to ensure infiltration rates are not affected.

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