Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance & Repairs
Best Management Practices

Selection of Best Management Practices

In order to comply with Santa Barbara County's Municipal Storm Water Permit, Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be employed at municipal facilities. BMPs may be selected from the options listed below or developed on a case-by-case basis as appropriate. Facilities with a Water Quality Protection Protocol (WQPP) should follow the BMPs stated in that protocol.

Goal / Purpose

Initial
Minimize the discharge of pollutants into storm water runoff from vehicle and equipment maintenance operations by containing potential pollutants and preventing release to the storm water system.

Long term
Only emergency maintenance and repairs will be conducted without cover.

Practices

1. Conduct maintenance and repair operations indoors or under cover, whenever possible.
2. Periodically throughout the day, clean up your work area to prevent the tracking of pollutants around the work site and outside.
3. Use shop rags and damp mop for general cleanup; never hose down a work area. The mop water must be emptied into a drain connected to the oil/water separator.
4. Use drip pans to collect and transfer liquids or transport parts.
5. Every day carefully empty collection pans. Use funnels to transfer liquids when appropriate. Clean up drips immediately.
6. Check vehicles and equipment awaiting maintenance, repairs or disposal for leaks. Clean up any releases immediately and dispose of appropriately. Place collection pans to collect any further releases.
7. Cover engines and other parts to prevent contact with storm water; use hood, tarp, shed or building.
8. Drain fluids from equipment or parts that are to be scrapped.

9. The scrap metal stockpile will be minimized by disposal periodically. Cover the stockpile during the rain season.

10. Do not use drains without knowing whether they flow to the sanitary sewer, storm system or an internal sump. Confirm connections before using drains to ensure proper disposal.

11. When working outside, always protect the storm drain system from accidental releases. One way to protect the storm drain system is by putting portable dikes around the work area and/or placing storm drain mats over the storm drains. Use the most appropriate method to contain any potential spills.

12. Regularly inspect oil/water separator and sumps; conduct maintenance and repairs promptly. Comply with the local sanitation district’s discharge standards.

13. Keep vehicle and equipment painting confined to small touch-ups. Using greater amounts of paint or other coatings require the use of a spray booth and a permit from the Air Pollution Control District.

14. Use a water-based parts cleaning system instead of petroleum solvents, if feasible.

15. Maintain labels on all containers; correct identification is important for employee safety and correct disposal. O HSA mandates labels for all containers holding a substance.

16. Maintain an organized inventory of chemical products onsite along with their Material Safety Data Sheets.

17. Conduct preventative maintenance on secondary containment structures, pipes, valves, pumps and other equipment to ensure proper operation and to identify potential leaks.

**Contractor Requirements**

18. Ensure that contractors provide the County with a copy of their storm water awareness training and procedures for protecting the storm water system. These procedures should cover activities from cleaning windows to painting an entire building.

**Associated BMPs**

- Alternative Safer Products
- Housekeeping
- Loading & Unloading
- Material & Hazardous Waste Storage
- Metal, Wood, Print & Paint Shops
- Spill Prevention & Cleanup
- Vehicle & Equipment Washing & Steam Cleaning

Spills can be significantly reduced by using containers that can be placed directly under the engine to collect fluids. These containers also allow the waste to be transferred to other accumulation tank with little effort via a nozzle at the bottom of the unit.
19. Include specific contract language to inform the contractor that they must comply with federal, state and local storm water rules and regulations as required by the Clean Water Act. Amend existing contracts to include this language, if not already included.

**Employee Training**

Staff training may include regular tailgate sessions at those facilities responsible for conducting vehicle or equipment maintenance or repairs. Tailgate sessions should provide information on the selected storm water BMPs and methods for preventing discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system. Encourage employees to suggest modifications for existing BMPs and to create new BMPs; their suggestions will likely reduce labor and increase storm water runoff protection. If the above suggested BMPs require some modification to work for you or do not cover some aspect of your operations or facility, call Project Clean Water at 568-3440 for assistance.

Storm water BMP training may be incorporated with other training sessions such as safety training. Facilities with a Storm Water Plan should follow the training requirements stated in that Plan. Records of the training sessions must be kept for at least three years. These records should include who conducted the training, who attended, subjects discussed, and the date(s) of the training.

For additional information on this and other BMPs, or the County’s responsibilities under the NPDES Phase II federal regulations for storm water discharges, see [www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater](http://www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater) or contact Project Clean Water staff at 568-3440.