

Alternative Hazardous Materials Reduction Practices

Best Management Practices Fact Sheet

Goal/Purpose: To reduce the use of hazardous materials, which will reduce the potential for hazardous compounds to be released to the storm water system.

The computer is an efficient way to research a specific product or to look for less toxic alternative products for currently used chemicals and compounds.

Selection of Best Management Practice Activities

To comply with the city's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), specific best management practices (BMPs) must be implemented at municipal facilities and should be selected or developed on a case-by-case basis as required.

Activity

Since cleanup of pollution is expensive and time consuming, it is better to prevent the release of pollutants in the first place. EPA defines environmental management as follows:

Aim to prevent waste, that which can't be prevented should be recycled, that which can't be recycled should be treated safely, and only that which can't be treated safely should be disposed of properly.

1. Evaluate safer alternative products for any job that uses toxic or hazardous products. For instance, investigate noncaustic detergents, alternate floor and window cleaners, adhesives, paints, lubricants, and construction materials, such as carpet and wood.
2. Carefully evaluate specialty products, such as metal cleaners and degreasers. They often contain compounds that create hazardous waste and may not be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

Web Sites with Alternative Product Information

There are numerous Web sites with information on safer products and practices. The three listed below are quite comprehensive and have links to other informative Web sites. A search of the Web will identify hundreds of other sites and companies. If you wish to conduct your own search, key words include alternative, safer, nontoxic, and green.

3. The General Services Administration (GSA) provides some products under a green program. Its Web site has data on a variety of products with specific data on the hazardous ingredients of each product. There are guides for alternatives to specific chemicals. Visit www.gsa.gov for more information.
4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) has numerous documents to help in the selection of safer alternative products. A wide variety of products and activities are covered. EPA started this program to help agencies prevent waste and pollution by considering environmental impacts along with price, performance, and other traditional factors when deciding what to buy. The EPP

Program serves as a clearinghouse of information and tools to facilitate purchase of environmentally preferable products and services. Visit www.epa.gov/opptinter/epp for more information.

5. Utilize other Web sites and references to locate alternative products.

Contractor Requirements

1. Ensure that contracts will contain specific language to inform contractors that they will 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 that use hazardous materials. 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 to 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 the city storm water representative at (XXX) XXX-XXXX for assistance.

Storm water BMP training may be incorporated with other training sessions such as safety training. Records of the training sessions should 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 city's responsibilities under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II federal regulations for storm water discharges, see <http://www.XXXX.XXXX> or contact the city storm water representative at (XXX) XXX-XXXX for assistance.