

Storm Water Pollution Prevention At-Work Best Management Practices (BMPs)

GENERAL CLEANING

Cleanup

It was common practice to wash down floor mats and pour mop water and wash water out in the parking lot. Unfortunately, this water flowed off the lot, into the streets, and eventually into waterways.

BMPs: Pour wash water into a mop sink or down floor drains. Greasy equipment and utensils should be washed into a system with an oil–water separator which leads to the sewer system. Finally, avoid washing mats, garbage containers, or other items where the wash water can lead out into the street.

Cleaners and Solvents

General cleaners, floor cleaners, solvents, and detergents often contain toxic substances. These materials can cause great damage to local water quality if they reach the storm sewer system.

BMPs: Read labels carefully and follow directions. Dispose of unused portions properly, and follow the cleanup practices above. Whenever possible, purchase water-based cleaning products. Look for products labeled “nontoxic,” “nonpetroleum-based,” “ammonia-free,” “phosphate-free,” “dye- and perfume-free” and/or “readily biodegradable.”

Rubbish

Rain and wind can pick up rubbish, oil, grease, and other substances and carry them into the street.

BMPs: Prevent polluted runoff by covering all dumpsters and replacing leaky ones. Also, keep the area around the dumpsters free of trash.

EROSION CONTROL

One of the most common pollutants in our waterways is dirt. This sediment clouds the water, which prevents light from reaching aquatic plants, clogs gills of aquatic life, and traps solar energy, which increases the temperature of the water. All of these factors lead to the death of many aquatic plants and animals.

BMPs: Avoid excavation work during the rainy season, and install erosion control devices, like sand bags and vegetation. Divert water away from bare soil areas by constructing dikes or berms. If practical, cover piles of soil with plastic sheeting.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document represents a careful consolidation, distillation, and restatement of storm water-related information, policies, and regulations obtained from other sources including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the North Dakota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the United States Census Bureau. Prior to implementing any of the best management practices and recommendations stated within this document, it is suggested the reader review the original sources of this information in detail.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Nobody wants their vehicles to leak fluids, but sometimes they do. Oil, transmission and hydraulic fluids, and antifreeze can hit the ground and be potential storm water pollutants.

BMPs: Inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks regularly. Fix problems as soon as possible. When draining fluids, use a drip pan and/or funnel to catch any stray flows. Keep a cleanup kit of safety equipment and absorbent material such as kitty litter or sand. If you do spill some fluid, be ready to soak it up and dispose of it properly. Never hose down areas; use a broom, and sweep regularly.

MATERIAL STORAGE

Sunlight and rain can cause containers and bags to become brittle. This leads to torn and broken containers and spillage of contents. If not cleaned up, wind and rain will carry this material into the streets and eventually into local waterways.

BMPs: Store all containers holding powder and liquid materials under cover. Construct a dike to contain any possible leaks, which will prevent any chemicals from flowing off site. Close and secure any opened containers to prevent wind from blowing powders away and spills if the container is accidentally tipped over.

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