

Storm Drains and Catch Basins

Best Management Practices Fact Sheet

Goal/Purpose:

Short Term

Maintain storm drains and catch basins to reduce the concentration of potential pollutants flushed into the storm water system.

Long Term

Implement a regular cleaning schedule for storm drains, catch basins, and other storm water conveyances. Install petroleum sorbent, debris, and sediment filters where appropriate to reduce pollutant concentrations.

One method to temporarily protect storm drains is with cement blocks, filter cloth, and gravel; this captures debris while only water is allowed to enter the drain.

Sandbags and plastic sheeting are another type of temporary storm drain protection that prevents any liquid from entering the drain and can be used to seal the drain.

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

1. Inspect storm water drains, grates, inlets, ditches, swales, and catch basins at least twice a year. The best times are a month before the start of the summer rain season and just before the first snow. Keep a log of areas and structures inspected.
2. Clean storm grates, inlets, drains, ditches, swales, and catch basins to remove the accumulation of debris and sediment. Keep a log of the material removed from each structure.
3. Evaluate the use of storm drain filters for petroleum and/or debris and sediment removal at your facility. If observations indicate that petroleum, debris (trash, leaves, etc.), and/or sediment are entering the drains in significant quantities and source control BMPs have been implemented to the maximum extent possible, these types of filters may be inappropriate for reducing contaminants leaving the site.
4. Install storm drain filters in one or more drains to remove petroleum compounds, debris, and/or sediment from runoff. Prepare a written plan for ongoing maintenance to preserve filter effectiveness.
5. For drains that serve unstable areas, protect the storm drain by using sediment erosion control techniques or other measures appropriate for the site to protect the drain system.

6. For drains that serve areas with unstable soils such that erosion cannot be controlled by other methods, protect the storm drain by using filter fences, sediment traps, or diversion structures to protect the drain system.

7. Make sure that employees know that storm drains, catch basins, and culverts are part of the storm water collection system, not part of the sanitary sewer system. Replace damaged or lost storm drain markers on a regular basis.

8. Authorized non-storm water discharges should be directed away from potential pollutant sources such as loading areas or accumulations of oil and grease in parking lots. This will minimize pollutants reaching the storm water conveyance system.

9. Promptly repair any damaged or deteriorating structure or any other problems that may compromise the integrity of the storm water drainage system. Keep a log of storm water system maintenance.

10. Update facility schematics with any change to the plumbing (to prevent cross connections) or storm water drain system. Only storm water is allowed into the storm water system.

Contractor Requirements

1. Ensure that contractors provide the city 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.

2. Include specific contract language to inform contractors 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 that load and unload significant amounts of chemicals or raw 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 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 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.