

Trash and Dumpster Management

Best Management Practices Fact Sheet

Goal/Purpose:

Minimize or prevent the discharge of floating materials and pollutants into storm water runoff from trash and garbage collection containers. Reducing trash disposal through reuse and recycling of as many waste streams as possible, such as paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastics, wood, and scrap metal.

Keep lids closed, except when dumping or removing trash. This practice keeps precipitation from leaching contaminants out of the trash and container and into storm water runoff. Also keep the trash enclosure and adjacent area clean of debris.

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. Keep dumpsters, trash cans, and recycling bins covered, except when filling or emptying. Schedule the trash pickup frequency to help keep the trash from holding the cover open. Open lids allow contact with rainwater and snow, which dissolves and transports contaminants into the storm water system. Open lids also invite pests to spread trash around.
2. Do not put liquids or greases in trash containers. In small amounts, they should go down the sanitary sewer or be discarded in a grease barrel. Liquids may be accepted by the local sanitary sewer district; check with the wastewater treatment plant prior to discharging any liquid into the sanitary sewer.
3. If using a compactor, ensure there are no liquids leaking out onto the pavement where they will come into contact with storm water.
4. Check that the compactor, dumpster, or trash can are in good condition, with no holes or accumulation of grime. Trash containers should be leak-free. When necessary, call the sanitation company to replace or clean the containers.
5. Regularly inspect the trash enclosure and general area for problems such as trash not in the container and accumulation of grease or food on the ground. Clean the trash enclosure as needed to remove any accumulations of grime and/or general trash.
6. Clean trash cans in a designated area with a connection to the sanitary sewer such as mop sink or floor drain. Do not use a drain without knowing whether it flows to the sanitary sewer, storm drain, or self-contained internal sump. Confirm before using drains to ensure proper disposal. Never discharge any wash water to the storm drain or off-site.

7. Designate an area for trash collection away from storm drains. This allows problems at the trash container to be corrected before reaching the storm drain or flow off-site.

8. Consider using a locking dumpster to prevent illegal dumping.

9. Consider requiring a trash management deposit when leasing out facilities. This will help ensure that trash is placed in the trash containers, not left on the ground or just thrown in the enclosure. Implement a trash management deposit system for rental facilities.

10. Recycle as many waste streams as possible. Contact your trash hauler or the community informational Web site for more information on recycling.

11. It is important to ensure that the work area is cleaned up and all trash disposed of before leaving the work site.

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.

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.