Introduction

Runoff from construction sites is a major source of water pollution, and is subject to permit requirements such as the development of a stormwater pollution prevention plan, a plan review, stormwater treatment measures, runoff monitoring and increased site inspections.

As part of our Construction Site Water Pollution Prevention Program, this brochure will assist construction professionals understand and comply with new State and Federal laws. Here, you will find valuable information on methods used on construction sites to keep pollution, such as dirt and construction site debris out of our sewage treatment system and sensitive local water bodies.

We hope to make your job easier while keeping our city clean by providing you with the information to create an efficient and environmentally safe construction site.

Together, we have the ability to preserve the quality of life in San Francisco.

Water Pollution Prevention Program
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
3801 3rd Street, Suite 600
San Francisco CA, 94124
(415) 695-7310
siterunoff@sfwater.org
www.sfpuc.org

Questions? Contact the San Francisco Water Pollution Prevention Program at (415) 695-7310

Best Management Practices

Construction materials such as paint, dirt, and trash often find their way into our storm drains, jeopardizing San Francisco’s sewer system, and polluting surrounding local water bodies.

Contractors are required to implement what are known as Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all construction sites. BMPs are methods used to keep pollution out of our storm drains and catch basins and off of City property such as sidewalks, streets, and alleys. Installing and maintaining these BMPs on the construction site is critical to protecting our sensitive water bodies.

If your project disturbs 5,000 or more square feet of ground surface, you are required to submit an application for a Construction Site Runoff Control Permit to the SFPUC. Below is a table summarizing the permits needed based on construction site size. Please check out the resources available here to learn more:
https://sfpuc.org/programs/pretreatment-program/construction-site-runoff

The following is a list of BMPs and pollution prevention measures that must be implemented at all construction sites. They are separated into two categories.

Erosion and Sediment Control:
• Minimize Disturbed Areas
• Stabilize Disturbed Areas
• Protect Slopes and Channels
• Control Site Perimeter
• Retain Sediment

Non Stormwater and Waste/Material Management BMPs:
• Practice Good House Keeping
• Treat and Safely dispose materials and waste
Site Overview
This drawing illustrates Best Management Practices (BMPs) that must be followed at all construction sites in San Francisco.

1. **Preserve Existing Vegetation**
   - Preserving existing trees and vegetation where possible will prevent erosion.

2. **Building Materials/Staging areas**
   - Construction materials must be stored onsite at all times. The only exception is if you have a right-of-way permit. Building materials should always be covered when not in use to prevent runoff caused by wind or rain. To apply for a right-of-way permit, contact the Bureau of Streets Use and Mapping at (415) 554-5810.

3. **Concrete Trucks / Pumpers**
   - Any concrete pumpers parked in public streets or alleys must be surrounded by perimeter controls, such as berms, gravel bags or fiber rolls. Tarps also must be placed beneath concrete pumpers at all times. Residual materials must be cleaned up as well.

4. **Washout Area**
   - The disposal of “wet” construction materials should be handled in the washout area. This includes paint, stucco, and concrete. Use a gravel bag or fiber roll and tarp to collect evaporation and prevent run-off in nearby areas. The washout area must be checked and maintained daily to ensure compliance.

5. **Storm Drains and Catch Basins**
   - Storm drains must be protected at all times with perimeter controls, such as fiber rolls or gravel bags.

6. **Dirt and Grading**
   - Mounds of dirt or gravel should be stored on site and covered each day with a tarp. When in use, all exposed dirt piles should be sprayed with water to prevent excessive dust. Tarps must be available and onsite to cover 125% of exposed areas during the rainy season (October-April).

7. **Earthmoving Equipment**
   - All earthmoving equipment should be stored onsite. Maintenance and repair should never be conducted on the site. All tracks and trails left by equipment leading to and from the site should be cleaned up immediately.

8. **Construction Site Stone or Rock Access Drives**
   - Stone or rock access drives at any construction site should be made of 3-4 inch fractured stone aggregate with a geo-tactile liner below the grade of the road. This is to be used by all vehicles to limit tracks of mud onto the streets.

9. **Dumpsters**
   - Keep dumpsters covered. Areas around dumpsters should be swept daily.

10. **Paint and Stucco**
    - All paint and stucco materials stored on the site must be contained and covered. It is illegal for contractors to wash out paintbrushes in the street or dump any residues in the sewer or the storm drain. Paintbrushes and spray guns shall be washed/cleaned out into a hazardous materials barrel or put back into its original container and disposed of properly. Latex paint should be dried in its container and placed in the garbage. Oil paint and thinners need to be recycled as hazardous wastes.

11. **Perimeter Controls**
    - Gravel bags, silt fences, and fiber rolls are acceptable perimeter controls, and shall be used to surround the entire site. Upstream perimeter controls prevent water from running into your site and downstream controls prevent sediment from leaving your site. Avoid running over perimeter controls with vehicles or heavy equipment, as they can damage the materials. Replace any damaged perimeter controls immediately. Keep extra absorbent materials and/or a wet/dry vacuum on site to quickly pick up unintended spills. Sites must also be checked and maintained daily.

**Dewatering Activities**
A batch discharge permit is required before releasing any construction site wastewater. Call 415-695-7310 for more information.

---

San Francisco Water Power Sewer
Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
City and County of San Francisco
3801 3rd Street, Suite 600
San Francisco CA, 94124
(415) 695-7310
siterunoff@sfwater.org
www.sfpuc.org

Questions? Contact the San Francisco Water Pollution Prevention Program at (415) 695-7310