Tahoe Basin Construction Site BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

CONSTRUCTION SITE OVERVIEW FOR TAHOE BASIN

Protecting clean water improves our quality of life and preserves the local environment for our children and future generations. Unintentional spills at work sites can flow into storm drains and pollute waterways. These spills are prohibited by law. The drawing illustrates BMPs that should be used at all construction sites to protect storm drains and minimize pollution. Proper construction site BMPs are dynamic. As the construction progresses, the proper BMP method and location may change. All site BMPs must be checked and maintained daily, and revised as needed.

SCHEDULING

Call (530) 581-6205 48 hours in advance of construction activities for inspection of BMPs. Construction is normally allowed May 1st through October 15th, sites must be winterized by October 15th.

DUMPSTERS

Always cover dumpsters and locate them away from drainage inlets and gutters. Areas around dumpsters should be swept daily. Perimeter controls should be installed around dumpsters.

CHEMICAL TOILETS

Chemical toilets are to be located in such a manner that if they are either damaged or knocked over the contents could not enter a stormwater drainage system.

PAINT AND STUCCO

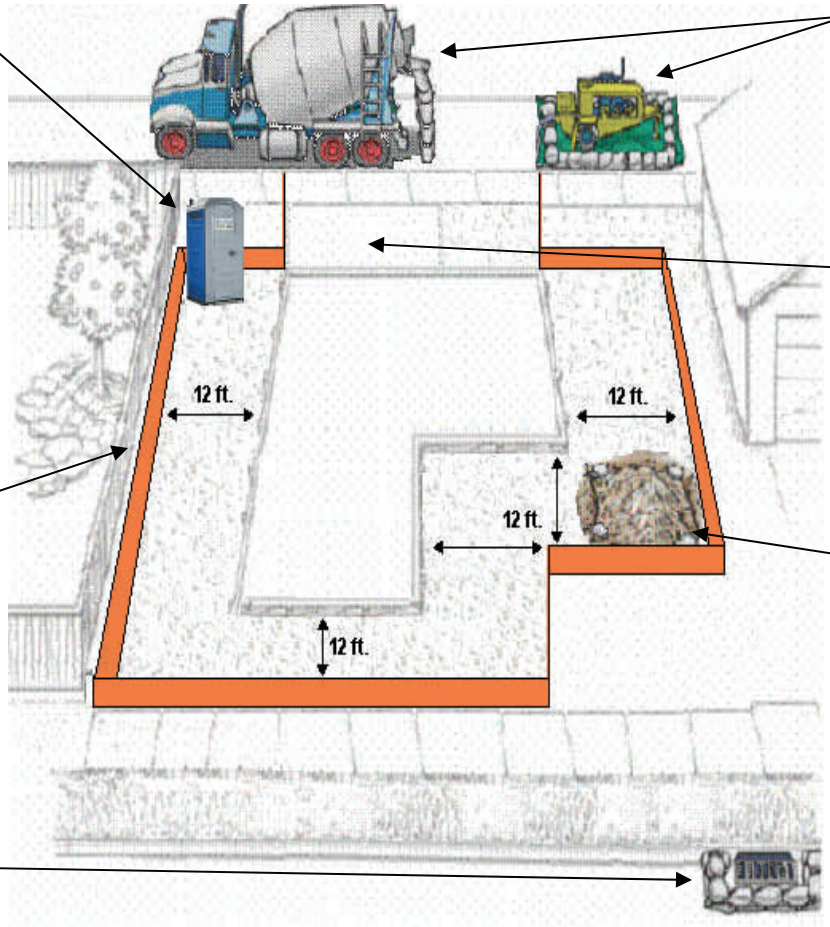
All paint and stucco materials stored on the site must be contained and covered. It is illegal for contractors to wash out painting equipment in the street or dump any residues in the sewer or the storm drain. Paint brushes and spray guns should be washed/cleaned out into a hazardous materials drum or back into original containers and disposed of properly.

PERIMETER FENCING CONTROLS

Properly installed silt fences and straw wattles are acceptable perimeter controls, and should be used downslope of all disturbed areas. Use wattles across driveways. These may need to have gravel bags placed on top to weigh them down. Keep extra absorbent materials and/or a wet/dry vacuum on site to quickly pick up unintended spills. The construction limits of every project site are required to be identified with 48" construction fencing, typically orange plastic, located no more than 12 feet from the adjacent construction area.

STORM DRAINS

Storm drains must be protected at all times with perimeter controls, such as sand bags, gravel bags or wattles.



TREE PROTECTION

48" orange tree protective fencing is required around the dripline of every tree to remain within the construction zone. If construction is within dripline, then fencing should still be used to the extent practical and 2" boards should be strapped temporarily around the trunk for protection. Trees to be removed that are 6" diameter at breast height (dbh) or larger must be shown on Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)-stamped plans as approved for removal.

CONCRETE TRUCKS/PUMPERS

Pumpers should be surrounded by perimeter controls, such as gravel bags, sand bags or straw wattles. Tarps should be placed beneath concrete pumpers. Residual materials must be cleaned up as well. Debris should be disposed of properly. Concrete washouts not allowed unless addressed in TRPA permit.

STABILIZED CONSTRUCTION ACCESS

Require all construction vehicles and equipment to use one designated, stabilized entrance/exit to prevent vehicles from tracking mud onto roadways. When possible, prohibit vehicle/equipment parking on unpaved or non-stabilized areas. Tracks and trails left by vehicle/equipment leading to and from the site should be cleaned up immediately using dry clean up methods (i.e. sweeping).

DIRT AND GRADING

Mounds of dirt or gravel should be covered with plastic sheeting and contained with a filter fabric fence or staked straw waddles. Provide dust control as needed.

BUILDING MATERIALS/STAGING AREAS

Staging areas should be limited to the driveway and existing hard surface areas such as concrete or asphalt. Don't disturb any more area than you absolutely have to.

PLACER COUNTY
STORMWATER QUALITY DIVISION

For more information call Placer County Stormwater Quality Division at 530-745-7500, or speak to your jobsite inspector.
For additional info visit: Placer County Stormwater website at http://www.placer.ca.gov/Works/StrmWtr.aspx
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) website at http://www.trpa.org or call TRPA at (775) 509-5202

Dear Building Permit Holder:

As you may be aware, Placer County is subject to State and Federal laws as well as its own ordinance, prohibiting the discharge from your property of anything except clean rainwater into our stormdrains and waterways. In addition to these laws the County enforces many of the TRPA construction regulations concerning Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The County has added stormwater quality inspection components to building construction sites. Your building site will be subject to these inspections. During an inspection, the inspectors will evaluate your site for conditions that may result in discharges of pollutants to stormwater. All types of potential contaminants from jobsites are prohibited, including sediment, oil and all other vehicle fluids, concrete washout, paint, landscaping materials, fertilizers, pesticides, trash, etc. Additionally, sites where one acre or more of ground is disturbed*, or smaller sites that are part of a larger development (such as a subdivision or shopping center) where disturbance is cumulatively one acre or more, are required by State law to obtain a construction stormwater permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (western Placer County (916) 464-3291, and Tahoe/Truckee (530) 542-5400).

Following are some of the items inspectors will review:

- Evidence of sediment or muddy water running off from the site
- Compliance with County grading permits
- Potential for contaminated runoff in the event of rainfall (e.g. vehicle fuel or fluid leaks, material spills, paint waste, unprotected stockpiles, etc.)
- Stabilized construction access is installed and maintained and there is no mud, debris, or trash on the adjacent roads
- Erosion controls (mulching, blankets, etc.) and perimeter controls (wattles, silt fences, etc.) are on site or properly installed and maintained
- Construction materials are properly stored (covered when not in use, out of the right-of-way, secondary containment if needed, spoil disposed of properly, etc.)
- Dust control measures are being effectively applied
- A cement/stucco washout containment area is provided and used (not typically allowed in the Tahoe Basin)
- Dumpsters are covered, cleaned-up and emptied regularly to keep the site trash free
- Portable toilets are out of the street and away from drainage paths, so that liquid cannot enter the storm drain system if they are knocked over

All operational storm drain inlets are effectively protected from sediment inflow.

If the inspectors identify an *actual or potential* discharge of any pollutant, the jobsite operator and /or owner will be asked to correct the situation.
For more information, please speak to your site inspector or call the Stormwater Quality Division of the Placer County Department of Public Works at (530) 745-7500.

*Disturbed areas include: areas where vegetation is removed, areas that are to be graded or paved, building sites, access and parking areas, storage areas, and anywhere else that existing ground is disrupted.