Construction Site BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

CONSTRUCTION SITE OVERVIEW

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 must be used at all construction sites to protect storm drains and minimize pollution. All site BMPs must be checked and maintained daily.

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).

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

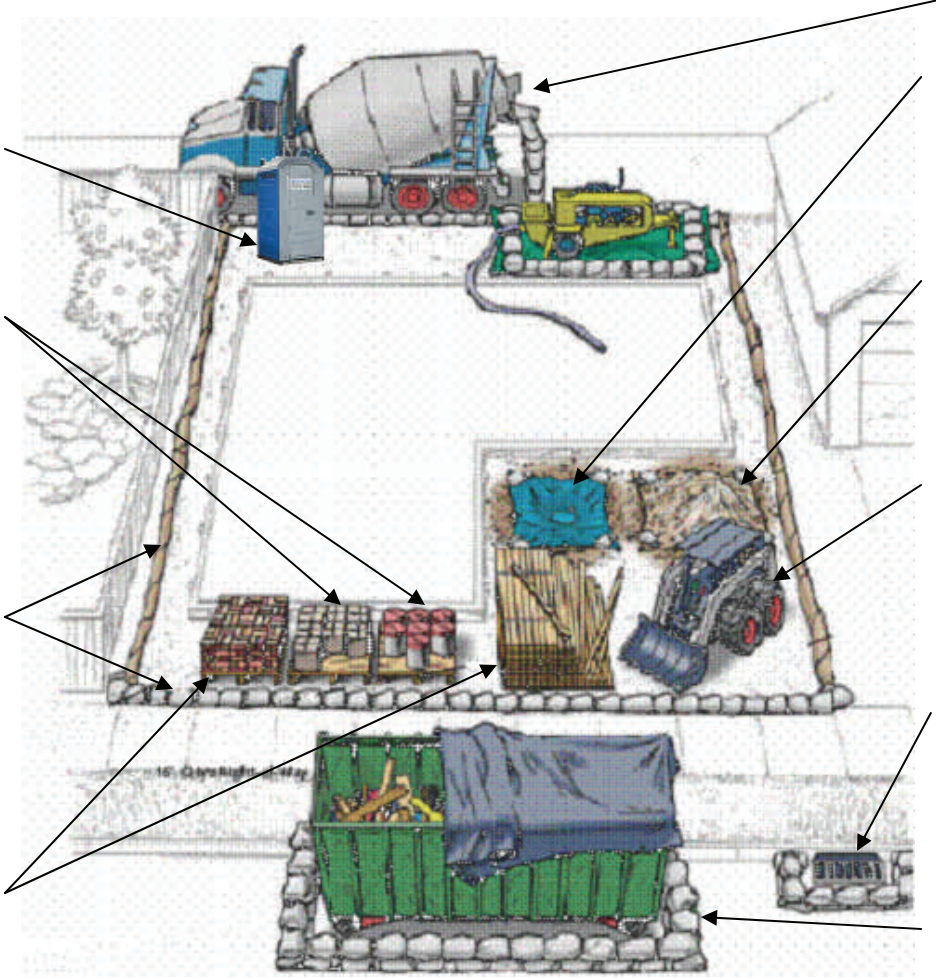
All paint and stucco materials stored on the site must be contained and covered. It is illegal for contractors to wash out paint brushes in the street or dump any residues in the sewer or the storm drain. Paint brushes and spray guns should be washed/cleaned out into a hazardous materials drum or back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

PERIMETER CONTROLS

Properly installed gravel bags, hay bales, silt fences and straw wattles are acceptable perimeter controls, and should be used as needed around the entire site. Avoid running over perimeter controls with vehicles or heavy equipment, as they can damage the materials. Keep extra absorbent materials and/or a wet/dry vacuum on site to quickly pick up unintended spills.

BUILDING MATERIALS/STAGING AREAS

Construction and landscaping materials should be stored on site and not within the public right-of-way. Building materials should always be covered or contained when not in use to prevent contact with rain.



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.

WASHOUT AREA

The disposal of "wet" construction materials should be handled in a properly designed washout area. This includes paint, stucco and concrete. Use a sand berm and tarp, or mobile unit to collect wastes and prevent run-off.

DIRT AND GRADING

Mounds of dirt or gravel should be stored on site and sprayed daily with water to prevent excessive dust. These materials should also be covered each day with a tarp, coconut mat or other form of protection.

EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

All earthmoving equipment should be stored on site. Maintenance should also be conducted on the site in properly protected areas. Clean up all drips and spills immediately using dry clean up methods (i.e. sweeping, absorbent materials). Do not hose down spills.

STORM DRAINS

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

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.

PLACER COUNTY
STORMWATER QUALITY DIVISION

For more information call Placer County Stormwater Quality Division at 530-745-7500, or speak to your jobsite inspector.
Check out the Placer County Stormwater website at http://www.placer.ca.gov/Works/StrmWtr.aspx
Note: BMP requirements in the Lake Tahoe watershed may be more restrictive. See separate handout.

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.