

How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices, or BMPs, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMPs in this brochure.

What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-2678.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go on line at: <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>



Environmentally Friendly Practices for the Construction Industry



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Environmental Services Division

Storm Water Hotline
480-350-2811

Environmentally Friendly Practices for the Construction Industry

Before construction begins, grade your site to retain all storm water on site.

Plan Ahead to Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Before construction begins, plan for erosion control on the work site to prevent or minimize most erosion and sedimentation problems. The most efficient approach involves minimizing the potential sources of sediment from the outset, including limiting the extent and duration of land disturbance to the minimum needed, and protecting surfaces once they are exposed.

The second stage of the Best Management Practices system for construction sites involves controlling the amount of runoff and its ability to carry sediment by diverting incoming flows and impeding internally generated flows.

The third stage involves retaining sediment that is picked up on the project site through the use of sediment-capturing devices.

On most sites, successful erosion and sedimentation control requires a combination of structural and vegetative practices. All of these stages are better performed using advance planning and good scheduling. The following list of BMPs for erosion and sediment control during construction activities is grouped by function.

Housekeeping Practices

- Retain as much existing soil and vegetation cover as possible and excavate the minimal amount.
- Avoid burial of wastes.
- Carry out equipment hydraulics top-up, fueling and lubricating on an approved pad with spill control and collection in place.
- Collect the wash water from glues, solvents, paints, wood preservatives and other toxic materials and dispose of it in an appropriate manner; avoid burying it on site or dumping it on the ground.
- Protect existing trees, shrubs, and soils, which are going to remain in their natural state from damage or compaction by construction equipment.
- Throw away rags that have chemicals on them (rainwater can saturate rags and flow into storm drains or sanitary sewer systems).
- Temporarily block inlets to the storm drain system with clean rubber mats to prevent dirt and chemicals from entering during regular cleaning and spill cleanup.

Surface Stabilization

- Use watering, mulching, or applying geotextile materials to a construction area to prevent soil loss as dust.
- Use a graveled area or pad entrance/exit points where vehicles enter and leave a construction site, to provide a buffer area where vehicles can drop their mud and sediment to avoid transporting it onto public roads, to control erosion from surface runoff and to help control dust.

Runoff Control

- Cover stockpiles, backfill materials, and construction materials to prevent erosion and sedimentation.
- Use silt fences to contain runoff from easily eroded slopes.
- Apply berms to protect storm drain inlets down gradient from site.
- Periodically sweep or vacuum sediment from paved roads.

Storage

- Store and dispose of wastes properly.

Recycle

- Recycle oil and filters, tires, fluids, and wash water.

Employee and Public Education

- Train your employees and subcontractors about storm water responsibilities and requirements.

Staging Construction Vehicles

- Designate one area that is away from gutters and storm drains, for parking, vehicle refueling, and routine maintenance.

Miscellaneous Tips

- Never discharge any waste to a street, ditch, storm sewer, stream, or the ground.
- Use as little water as possible for dust control.

While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.

