



City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department

MASONRY AND CONCRETE WORK

Best Management Practices

In the City of Santa Cruz, water in the streets, gutters, and storm drains flows directly to local creeks, the San Lorenzo River, or Monterey Bay without any treatment. If proper control measures are not taken, construction sites and even small home construction projects can generate wastewater and runoff that carry debris and other harmful pollutants into our storm drain system. These pollutants can clog storm drain inlets and pipes, damage sensitive creek habitats, and pollute our bay and ocean.

In order to reduce the amount of pollutants reaching the storm drain system and local waterways, the City developed “Best Management Practices (BMPs)” for various types of construction work. The BMPs listed below are mandatory for masonry and concrete work including both commercial and residential projects:

- Concrete and cement may never be discharged into or allowed to reach the storm drain system.
- Sediment or pollutant laden water may not be discharged into the storm drain system.
- Do not mix fresh concrete or cement mortar in a gutter, over a storm drain inlet, or immediately adjacent to a water body.
- During tile cutting, ensure that the slurry water does not run off into the street or storm drain system. The discharge of slurry to the storm drain system is prohibited. Dried slurry must also be cleaned up and properly disposed so that it will not be carried into the storm drain system by wind, traffic, or rainfall.
- Never wash or rinse mixing containers and tools into the gutter, storm drain inlets, drainage ditches, or water body.
- Wash out from concrete mixers may never be disposed of in the storm drain system, including street, gutters, drainage ditches, and creeks. If possible, pump the washout back into the mixer for reuse.
- Store materials under cover and protected from wind, rain, and runoff. Open bags of particulate, granular, or powder materials (such as plaster or concrete) should be stored indoors if possible. If stored outside, they must be covered or closed, and during the rainy season they must be kept within secondary containment.
- Small amounts of excess concrete, grout, and mortar may be disposed of in the trash.
- If conducting sidewalk work, material stockpiles must be removed and cleaned up by the end of each day. Sweep or collect unused materials and debris that remain on pavement, such as the sidewalk, driveway, or street, and dispose of properly.
- When the job is completed, collect all unused or waste materials and dispose of properly. Never leave or abandon materials onsite. Ensure that nothing has “drifted” towards the street, gutter, or catch basin.

Revised March 2007