



Preventing Storm Drain Pollution

Outdoor Storage and Spill Response at Your Business

Storm Drains and the San Francisco Bay

When wash waters, leaked waste, and spills enter the street and storm drain inlets, they flow untreated through the storm drain system to our local waterways, the San Francisco Bay (Bay), and eventually the ocean. These pollutants can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people. Federal, state, and local regulations prohibit discharge of anything but rain water into the storm drain.

Help protect the Bay and local creeks by following the guidelines below.

Good Housekeeping

- Train employees on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for material storage, spill prevention and response.
- **Never** dump oils, chemicals, mop water or other fluids into a storm drain, gutter, street, drainage ditch, creek, or any surface leading to a storm drain.
- Regularly inspect containers/equipment for wear/leaks. Replace as needed.
- Regularly inspect outdoor areas for leaks, chemical/oil spills and loose litter. Clean up spills and leaks immediately. Sweep regularly to prevent debris and other materials from entering storm drain inlets.
- Store all materials inside, if possible.

Outdoor Materials Management

- If materials must be stored outdoors, then keep storage areas tidy.
- Enclose items to prevent contact with rainfall/runoff. Do all the following:
 - **Cover** (e.g. by a tarp, roof or in a fully enclosed container).
 - **Elevate** (e.g. on a shelf or on pallets).
 - **Use secondary containment** (e.g. berms, spill containment pallets, double-walled containers, sheds, etc.) for equipment and fluid storage containers (e.g. barrels, carboys, etc.) that may leak.

- Keep all lids/caps closed when not in use.
- Store materials as far as possible from storm drain inlets.
- Exercise care and planning when transferring liquids and powders to minimize spill potential.
- Schedule regular trash/recycling and hazardous waste hauler pick-ups as needed.
- Keep spill cleanup materials labelled and in easily accessible areas.

Cleaning Methods

- Clean outdoor areas and spills with “dry” cleaning methods such as sweeping, vacuuming, dry-mopping, and drying with absorbents or rags/towels (See *Spill Response* section).
- If water must be used, then use berms or other protective barriers to isolate polluted areas from storm drain inlets. Block off or seal storm drain inlets to prevent potential discharge. Collect and dispose of water in a lawful manner (See *Waste Disposal* section).
- Collect & dispose of non-hazardous wash waters in mop utility sink, toilet or sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Never wash equipment or materials to gutter, storm drain, street or creek.



Only rain down the storm drain.



Do not let containers leak.



Secondary containment.



Outdoor materials stored on pallets and covered.

For more information about stormwater pollution prevention

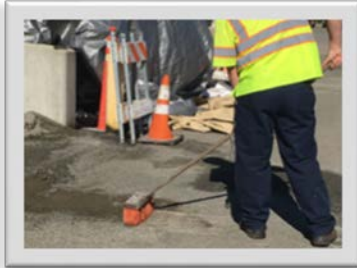
Outdoor Storage and Spill Response

Spill Response

- Keep spill kit updated, labelled and near high-risk areas (e.g. by outdoor storage area, loading dock). Include spill response plan/directions.
- Clean up surface residues that can wash into a storm drain during rain events.
- Contain the spill and protect nearby storm drains immediately.
- Manage spill by dry-mopping or covering liquids with absorbents/towels. Collect/Sweep-up waste immediately with a broom or wet/dry vac, and dispose of in a lawful manner (See *Waste Disposal* section).



Rubber mat to protect storm drain.



Sweeping is a “dry” cleaning method, good for managing sediment and used absorbents after a spill.

What’s in your spill kit?

1. **To Contain Spills** – Absorbent socks, barriers, storm drain inlet protection.
2. **To Manage Spills** – Absorbent granules or kitty litter, towels, pads, dry mop.
3. **To Collect Waste** – Wet/Dry vac, broom, dustpan, gloves, disposal bags, bucket.



Example spill kit.

Waste Disposal

- Learn about proper disposal options and hazardous waste disposal by contacting **Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Program: (800) 207-8222**.
- Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all stored chemicals and metals accessible.
- Cleaning solutions, fluids that cannot be recycled, and absorbent materials used to clean up those fluids, may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste. Learn more at hhw.org.

Spill Reporting

- To report illegal dumping/spills, contact your local stormwater pollution control agency (See below).
- If spill enters a creek, call Santa Clara Valley Water District’s **24-hour hotline: (888) 510-5151**.
- If significant or threatened spills of hazardous materials, responsible party must immediately report to **911** or to the **California Office of Emergency Services: (800) 852-7550, CalOES.ca.gov**.

Stormwater Pollution Control Agencies

For more information on stormwater pollution control, contact your local agency.

Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga (West Valley Communities) (408) 354-5385	Mountain View(650) 903-6378
Cupertino(408) 777-3354	Palo Alto(650) 329-2122
Los Altos(650) 947-2770	San José(408) 945-3000
Los Altos Hills(650) 941-7222	Santa Clara(408) 615-3080
Milpitas(408) 586-3365	Santa Clara Unincorporated County(408) 918-4609
	Sunnyvale (408) 730-7260

Wastewater Agencies

All discharges to the sanitary sewer must meet local discharge limits.

Contact your local wastewater agency to find out if pretreatment requirements apply to your facility.

San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility Serving Cupertino, Milpitas, San Jose, Santa Clara, West Valley Communities(408) 945-3000	Regional Water Quality Control Plant Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford.....(650) 329-2598
Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant Serving Sunnyvale(408) 730-7270	