STORMWATER regulations

We all want clean drinking water and healthy streams. So we all have to do our part to protect our local water quality. Your help is not only crucial - it's required by law.

Stormwater runoff picks up pollutants as it flows over the ground or paved areas; these pollutants are then carried into the storm drainage system and directly to our creeks, untreated. Common sources of pollutants from project sites include:

- sediment from soil erosion
- construction and landscape materials and waste (e.g., paint, solvents, concrete, drywall, mulch, gravel)
- landscaping runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides
- spills of oil, fuel, and other fluids

All project sites, regardless of size, are required by law to prevent pollutants from leaving the site. Your solution is best management practices (BMPs) – actions or structural practices that protect storm drains and prevent pollution.

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Spills and sediment from work sites can flow into storm drains and pollute local creeks. Pollutants leaving worksites are prohibited by law. The following photos illustrate best management practices (BMPs) that can be used at construction projects to protect storm drains and prevent pollution.

**STORM DRAINS**

Storm drains flow directly to our creeks. It is against the law to allow anything but rainwater to enter them. Use inlet controls, such as sand bags or gravel bags, to prevent sediment and pollutants from leaving your site and entering a storm drain.

**MATERIAL STORAGE**

Materials, including dirt or gravel, must be stored on the site at all times. Materials should always be covered when not in use. Use a tarp to prevent excessive dust and soil erosion and to prevent run-off caused by wind or rain. Don’t deliver or stockpile landscaping materials in the street or right-of-way.

**CONCRETE EQUIPMENT**

Equipment must be washed out on-site in a contained area. Waste water, residual material from saw cutting, and all spills to streets or paved surfaces must be collected and vacuumed up. Right-of-way permits may be required for concrete pumpers parked in public streets or alleys.

**EXCAVATION**

All dirt removed during an excavation process must be kept on-site. Materials in the street must be placed on tarps and covered until removed. All leftover debris must be swept up.

**LANDSCAPING**

Protect storm drains when doing landscaping work. Store all landscaping materials (e.g., sand, rocks, gravel, and dirt) appropriately on-site at all times. When lawn mowing, blow clippings back on landscaped areas and not into the street or on to pavement. Pesticide or fertilizer containers must be stored in secondary containment. If chemicals must be applied, do so sparingly.

**PERIMETER CONTROLS**

Perimeter controls are the last protection before sediment enters the roadway, storm drains, or adjacent properties. It is your responsibility to ensure that water and materials do not leave your site. Gravel bags, silt fences, and straw wattles are acceptable perimeter controls.

**CONCRETE INSTALLATION**

Block the closed storm drain with appropriate protection. All laid concrete must be kept on-site, and all water from construction activities must be contained, collected, and disposed of appropriately. When work is finished, clean up any debris with dry cleanup methods only; washing off concrete equipment into the street is not appropriate.

**DUMPSTERS**

Always cover dumpsters and sweep areas around dumpsters daily. Right-of-way permits may be required when dumpsters are placed in public streets and alleys.

**DRY CLEAN-UP**

Leftover construction and landscaping materials must be cleaned up with dry cleanup methods, such as sweeping, and never washed away to the street and storm drains. Equipment that needs to be cleaned should be taken off-site and washed in a manner that ensures the wash water goes to the sanitary sewer, if appropriate.

**EXCAVATION**

All dirt removed during an excavation process must be kept on-site. Materials in the street must be placed on tarps and covered until removed. All leftover debris must be swept up.

**DEWATERING**

Permission from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and your local municipality is required to dewater a construction site and discharge the water to the storm drainage system. Sediment will need to be removed from the water by settling it in a container or filtering the discharge.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

It is illegal to wash out paint brushes in the street or dump any residues in the storm drainage system. Clean paint brushes and spray guns inside a container and disposed of them properly. Keep extra absorbent materials and/or a wet-dry vacuum on-site to quickly pick up spills.

**KEEP IT CLEAN, ’cause we’re all downstream!**