

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our creeks and bay and for the people who live near polluted streams or baylands. Common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

Thirteen valley municipalities have joined together with Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to educate local residents and businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Join us, by following the practices described in this pamphlet.

## Doing the Job Right

### **General Business Practices**

- Schedule excavation and grading work during dry weather.
- Protect storm drain inlets receiving runoff from construction area with devices such as, but not limited to, gravel bag barriers and geotextile storm drain inserts.
- Develop and implement erosion/sediment control plans for roadway embankments.
- Check all equipment for leaks and repair leaking equipment promptly.
- Perform major maintenance, repairs, and washing of equipment in designated areas in your maintenance yard, away from the construction site.
- Recycle used oil, batteries, concrete, broken asphalt, etc. whenever possible, or dispose of properly.

## Storm Drain Pollution from Roadwork

Road construction often involves extensive earthwork and grading, which loosens soils and creates opportunities for erosion and deposition of sediments in storm drains and creeks. Road paving, surfacing, and pavement removal happen where there are numerous opportunities for asphalt, saw-cut slurry, or excavated material to enter storm drains and flow straight to creeks. Efforts should be made to store and dispose of materials properly and guard against pollution of storm drains, creeks, and the Bay.

### **Asphalt/Concrete Removal**

- Avoid creating excess dust when breaking asphalt or concrete. Do not allow dust to enter waterways.
- After breaking up old pavement, be sure to remove all chunks and pieces. Make sure broken pavement does not come in contact with rainfall or runoff.
- Protect storm drain inlets during saw cutting. If saw cut slurry enters a catch basin, clean it up immediately.
- Shovel or vacuum saw cut slurry deposits and remove from the site. When making saw cuts, use as little water as possible. Sweep up, and properly dispose of, all residues.
- Never hose down streets to clean up tracked dirt. Use dry sweep methods, such as a street sweeper or vacuum truck. Do not dump vacuumed liquid in storm drains.



### **During Construction**

- Avoid paving and seal coating in wet weather, or when rain is forecast, to prevent materials that have not cured from contacting stormwater runoff.
- Cover storm drain inlets and manholes when applying seal coat, slurry seal, fog seal, or similar materials.
- Protect drainage ways by using earth dikes, straw bales, sand bags, or other controls to divert or trap and filter runoff.
- Never wash excess material from exposed-aggregate concrete or similar treatments into a street or storm drain. Collect and recycle, or dispose to dirt area.
- Cover stockpiles and other construction materials with plastic tarps. Protect from rainfall and prevent runoff with temporary roofs or plastic sheets and berms.
- Park paving machines over drip pans or absorbent material (cloth, rags, etc.) to catch drips when not in use.
- Clean up all spills and leaks using "dry" methods (with absorbent materials and/or rags), or dig up and remove contaminated soil.
- Collect and recycle or appropriately dispose of excess abrasive gravel or sand. Do NOT sweep or wash it into gutters.
- Avoid over-application by water trucks for dust control.
- When refueling or vehicle/equipment maintenance must be done on site, designate a completely contained area away from storm drains and creeks.
- Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment parts or clean equipment.

## Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are eligible to use Santa Clara County's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Disposal Program. Call (800) 207-8222 for a quote, more information or guidance on disposal.

Palo Alto operates a similar program, with monthly collection, for small businesses. Call the City of Palo Alto, (650) 496-6980, or Clean Harbors, 1-800-433-5060 for information or to schedule an appointment.

This brochure is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain pollution prevention measures for specific types of construction industry activities. Other pamphlets include:

### ***General Construction and Site Supervision***

### ***Landscaping and Gardening***

### ***Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives***

### ***Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application***

### ***Earth-Moving and Heavy Equipment Operation***

### ***Dewatering Activities***

### ***Home Repair and Remodeling***

For additional brochures call **1-800-794-2482**.



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## Spill Response Agencies:

1. In the City of Santa Clara, call (408) 615-3080.
2. In the City of Palo Alto, call (650) 329-2413.
3. In the City of San José, dial 9-1-1 if hazardous materials enter the storm drain system. For non-hazardous spills, call (408) 945-3000.
4. In other cities, find the contact number at [www.scvurppp-w2k.com/report\\_spill.shtml](http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/report_spill.shtml) or **DIAL 9-1-1**
5. State Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours). . . . . **1-800-852-7550**
6. Santa Clara County's Illegal Dumping/ Discharge Hotline . . . . . (408) 918-3400

## Local Pollution Control Agencies

County of Santa Clara Integrated Waste Management Program. . . . . (408) 282-3180

County of Santa Clara District Attorney Environmental Crimes Hotline . . . . (408) 299-TIPS

Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline. . . . . 1-800-533-8414

Santa Clara Valley Water District. . . . . (408) 265-2600

Santa Clara Valley Water District Pollution Hotline. . . . . 1-888-510-5151

San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. . . . . (408) 635-6600  
*Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga*

Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant  
*Serving Sunnyvale. . . . . (408) 730-7270*

Regional Water Quality Control Plant. . . . . (650) 329-2598  
*Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford*

Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region. . . . . (510) 622-2300

# Roadwork and Paving

## *Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Construction Industry*



## Who should use this brochure?

- Road crews
- Driveway/sidewalk/parking lot construction crews
- Seal coat contractors
- Operators of grading equipment, paving machines, dump trucks, concrete mixers
- Construction inspectors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers