

Water Pollution Prevention

It's Up to Us:

Escalon has two drainage systems—the sewers and the *storm drains*. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets and out to our creeks and rivers.

Because the storm drain system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to our rivers, and eventually the ocean.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent river pollution from “stormwater” or “urban runoff.”

The Best Management Practices (BMP's) will ensure cleaner rivers and a cleaner city.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Roadwork and Paving Potential Pollutant Sources

Soil excavation and grading operations often contribute to urban runoff pollution. By loosening large amounts of soil and sediment, earthmoving activities can cause sediment to flow into gutters, storm drains and our rivers.

Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it enters our rivers.

Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases a river's water temperature, all of which harm aquatic life, disturbing the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.

Sediment also carries with it other work-site pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, cement wash, asphalt and car fluids like motor oil, grease and fuel. Thus, poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel and oil at the construction site also contributes to river pollution.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1

General Business Practices:

- Schedule roadwork and paving during dry weather
- Keep materials out of the rain. Store them under cover with temporary roofs or plastic sheets, protected from rainfall, runoff and wind.
- Develop and implement erosion and sediment control plans for embankments.
- Use as little water as possible for dust control to avoid excess runoff of sediment.

2

Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance:

- Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. **Inspect frequently for leaks.**
- Conduct all vehicle/equipment maintenance and refueling at one location - away from storm drains.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs and vehicle/equipment washing off-site.
- Use gravel approaches where truck traffic is frequent to reduce soil compaction and limit the tracking of sediment into streets.
- Use drip pans or drop cloths to catch drips and spills.
- Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment or parts.

3

During Construction:

- Avoid paving and seal coating in wet weather, or when rain is forecast before fresh pavement will have time to cure.
- Cover and seal catch basins and manholes when applying seal coat, slurry seal, fog seal etc.

- Use check dams, ditches or berms to divert runoff around excavations.
- Never wash excess material from exposed aggregate concrete or similar treatments into a street or storm drain. Collect and recycle, or dispose to designated wash out.
- Cover stockpiles and other construction materials with plastic tarps. Protect from rainfall and runoff.

4

Asphalt / Concrete Removal:

- Avoid creating excess dust when breaking asphalt or concrete
- After breaking up old pavement, be sure to remove all chunks and pieces from the site
- Make sure broken pavement does not come in contact with rainfall or runoff
- Protect nearby storm drain inlets during saw-cutting. Shovel or vacuum saw-cut slurry deposits and remove from the site.
- Never hose down streets to clean up tracked dirt. Use wet/dry sweep methods.

Employee & Client Education:

- **Educate your employees.** Include water quality training in new employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions.
- **Educate your customers.** Post BMP's where clients and employees can see them.

