

# Watershed Protection Tips



## Building Repair, Remodeling & Construction

### General Repair, Remodeling & Construction Projects Including Best Management Practices for:

- Concrete and Masonry work
- Landscaping
- Painting
- Pool/Spa Installation

### How Do Repair, Remodeling & Construction Projects Affect the Watershed?

During the process of repairing, remodeling or in other ways improving a property, contaminants including sediment, chemicals, construction debris, and cleaning products can easily run into nearby storm drains. The property owner is ultimately responsible for preventing this from happening.

### Best Management Practices for All Repair, Remodeling & Construction Projects

- Maintain a neat, clean work site whether doing it yourself or working with a contractor.
- Identify storm drains and other water bodies in and around the work area.
- Practice soil erosion prevention techniques and runoff control procedures.
- Protect storm drains when performing a service nearby.
- Schedule projects for dry weather periods to reduce risk of unwanted runoff.
- Store project materials undercover and away from streets and storm drains.
- Sweep or vacuum dry debris.
- Position drip pans, where appropriate, to avoid spills and leaks.
- Clean up any spills immediately with absorbent materials and dispose of properly.
- Capture waste waters for disposal in a sanitary sewer, on-site if possible.
- Cover and maintain dumpsters.
- Ensure vehicles, equipment, and personnel do not track mud or dirt onto the street.
- Understand the possible fees and fines associated with allowing materials to run into the storm drain system.
- Stockpile sand, gravel, and dirt on a tarp.
- Cover stockpiled materials securely with a plastic tarp.

### What Is Our Watershed?

Our watershed is the total land area from which stormwater drains into streams, rivers or other bodies of water. The storm drain system is a vast network of gutters, pipes and open channels designed for flood control, which directs untreated stormwater away from our communities. It is both illegal and harmful to allow solid or liquid wastes, including organic materials of any kind, into the storm drain system.

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**The Watershed Should  
Only Shed Water**

# Watershed Protection Tips

## Building Repair, Remodeling & Construction - continued

### Project Specific Best Management Practices

#### Concrete and Masonry Work

- Mix only as much concrete as needed.
- Recycle cement wash water or drain into a bermed, plastic-lined pit or leak-proof container onsite.
- Collect solid waste debris for proper disposal in the trash or off-site.
- Cover material stockpiles securely with plastic tarps.

#### Landscaping

- Cover material stockpiles securely with plastic tarps.
- Control erosion with suitable barriers and mulch. Use extra protection on slopes such as jute, plastic netting, or hydroseeding to keep soil in place.
- Stabilize large areas of dirt with fast growing annual and perennial grasses.
- Leaves, grass, and debris are not allowed to be washed or "leaf blown" to the storm drain.

#### Painting

- Use water-based paint whenever possible.
- Prevent spills and leaks.
- Sweep or vacuum up chips and dust of non-lead paint created when preparing a painting surface; this debris can be disposed of as trash.
- Dispose of all old paint and the chips and dust of marine or lead-based paints only through an authorized hazardous waste collection provider.
- Store paint safely, under cover, and ideally with secondary containment.
- Dispose of all clean-up water through a sanitary sewer, never into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Thoroughly dry used brushes, rags and drop cloths before disposing of them in the trash.

#### Pool/Spa Installation

- Dispose of excess slurry materials on-site whenever possible.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess concrete, plaster, mortar, grout and other dry materials in the trash.

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution call:

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