**Gas stations can be the source of several contaminants** :

- Oil and gas spilled onto paved areas are easily washed away by water, either from hoses or rainfall. One gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of water!
- Engine and brake residues contain antifreeze, grease, oil, copper, and even asbestos.
- Engine degreasers contain copper and brass.
- Lead, oil, and grease are residues of radiator flushing.
- Oil, grease, and detergents drain from car washing.
- Engine washing releases aluminum and iron.
- Brakes are a source of asbestos and cadmium washes from tires.

The City's Stormwater Ordinance (Section 64.70.02) and the City's National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) permit prohibit the discharge of untreated wash-water or wastes into the storm drain system. The City of Los Angeles strongly advises the owner to implement best management practices that prevent the discharge of pollu-tants to the storm drain system. The City of Los Angeles prepared this pamphlet to provide you with several ideas, most of which are simple and inexpensive, to eliminate stormwater/urban runoff pollution from your gas station, meet permit requirements, and to do your part to protect the environment and your community.

**For more information or to report a spill, call the City of Los Angeles' 24-hour Stormwater Hotline.**

**1-800-974-9794**

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Sanitation
Stormwater Management Program
650 South Spring Street Suite 700
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# Best Management Practices for Gasoline Stations

*Preventing Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution*

## Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution

Every day in Los Angeles, millions of gallons of polluted urban runoff flow through the massive storm drain sys-tem directly to our beaches and bays. What may come as a surprise is that we can't point to a few "dirty" industries or treatment plants as the source of this pol-lution. Industrial and commercial facilities generally cleaned up their operations years ago, and are not the problem. **The number one source of ocean water pollution today is each one of us working and living in the city and contributing small amounts of conta-minants that add up to one huge problem for the environment.**

The city's storm drain system is an essential network of channels and pipes that prevents widespread flooding every year. Urban runoff in dry weather and stormwa-ter flow from city streets, parking lots, and other paved areas into storm drains. The storm drain system is NOT connected to the municipal sewer system or waste-water treatment plants. Any water that enters a storm drain flows directly to the ocean UNTREATED. Recent studies have confirmed that people are getting sick from swimming near storm drain outlets at our beach-es. It is up to each one of us to take the simple steps necessary to eliminate our small contribution of conta-minants to protect the environment and those who fish, swim, and surf in local waters.

# Existing Facilities:

## Fuel Dispensing Areas

☐ _____ Maintain fuel dispensing areas using dry cleanup methods such as sweeping for removal of litter and debris, or use of rags and absorbents for leaks and spills. Fueling areas should never be washed down unless the wash water is collected and disposed of properly.

☐ _____ Fit underground storage tanks with spill containment and overfill prevention systems meeting the requirements of Section 2635(b) of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

☐ _____ Fit fuel dispensing nozzles with "hold-open latches" (automatic shutoffs) except where prohibited by local fire departments.

☐ _____ Post signs at the fuel dispenser or fuel island warning vehicle owners/operators against "topping off" of vehicle fuel tanks.

## Facility - General

☐ _____ "Spot clean" leaks and drips routinely. Leaks are not cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.

☐ _____ Maintain and keep current, as required by other regulations, a spill response plan and ensure that employees are trained on the elements of the plan.

☐ _____ Manage materials and waste to reduce adverse impacts on storm water quality.

☐ _____ Train all employees upon hiring and annually thereafter on proper methods for handling and disposing of waste. Make sure that all employees understand storm water discharge prohibitions, wastewater discharge requirements, and these best management practices. Use a training log or similar method to document training.

☐ _____ Label drains within the facility boundary, by paint/stencil (or equivalent), to indicate whether they flow to an oil/water separator, directly to the sewer, or to a storm drain. Labels are not necessary for plumbing fixtures directly connected to the sanitary sewer.

☐ _____ Inspect and clean, if necessary, storm drain inlets and catch basins within the facility boundary before October 1 each year.

## Outdoor Waste Receptacle Area

☐ _____ Spot clean leaks and drips routinely to prevent runoff of spillage.

☐ _____ Minimize the possibility of storm water pollution from outside waste receptacles by doing at least one of the following:

- use only watertight waste receptacle(s) and keep the lid(s) closed, or
- grade and pave the waste receptacle area to prevent run-on of storm water, or
- install a roof over the waste receptacle area, or
- install a low containment berm around the waste receptacle area, or
- use and maintain drip pans under waste receptacles.

## Air/Water Supply Area

☐ _____ Minimize the possibility of storm water pollution from air/water supply areas by doing at least one of the following:
Spot clean leaks and drips routinely to prevent runoff of spillage, or

- grade and pave the air/water supply area to prevent run-on of storm water, or
- install a roof over the air/water supply area, or
- install a low containment berm around the air/water supply area.

# New or Substantially Remodeled Facilities:

**Note:** Substantially Remodeled Facilities - One of the following criteria must be met before a facility is deemed to be substantially remodeled and the design elements described below are required to be included in the new design and construction:

- the canopy cover over the fuel dispensing area is new or is being substantially replaced (not including cosmetic/facial appearance changes only) and the footing is structurally sufficient to support a cover of the minimum dimensions as defined below, or
- one or more fuel dispensers are relocated or added in such a way that the Portland cement concrete (or, equivalent) paving and grade break or the canopy cover over the fuel dispensing area do not meet the minimum dimensions as defined below. Replacement of existing dispensers or underground storage tanks do not, by themselves, constitute a substantial remodel.

## Fuel Dispensing Areas

☐ _____ Fuel dispensing areas must be paved with Portland cement concrete (or, equivalent smooth impervious surface), with a 2% to 4% slope to prevent ponding, and must be separated from the rest of the site by a grade break that prevents run-on of storm water to the extent practicable. The fuel dispensing area is defined as extending 6.5 feet from the corner of each fuel dispenser or the length at which the hose and nozzle assembly may be operated plus 1 foot, whichever is less. The paving around the fuel dispensing area may exceed the minimum dimensions of the "fuel dispensing area" stated above.

☐ _____ The fuel dispensing area must be covered, and the cover's minimum dimensions must be equal to or greater than the area within the grade break or the fuel dispensing area, as defined above. The cover must not drain onto the fuel dispensing area.

**Note:** Special note on the paving BMP. This best management practice is not specifically intended to apply to facilities that install a new canopy where no canopy existed.

**Note:** Special note on the canopy BMP. The best management practice is not specifically intended to apply to facilities that:

- are located in geographic areas not subject to federal or state storm water regulations
- do not discharge storm water either directly to surface waters or indirectly, through municipal separate storm drain systems
- do not add fuel dispensers
- replace, relocate, or add fuel dispensers within the parameters described in the BMP
- increase their throughput of fuel dispensed without modifying their equipment
- make only cosmetic or facial appearance changes to their existing canopy

## Outdoor Waste Receptacle Area

☐ _____ Grade and pave the outdoor receptacle area to prevent run-on of storm water to the extent practicable.

## Air/Water Supply Area

☐ _____ Grade and pave the air/water supply area to prevent run-on of storm water to the extent practicable.

**Note:** For the purposes of the waste receptacle area and air/water supply area BMPs only, the facility is considered substantially remodeled if the area around the waste receptacle area or air/water supply area is being regraded or repaved.