

5 Construction



Sediment, from excavation and other construction projects, is the most common pollutant washed from work sites. Sediment entering the ocean through storm drains harms sea life and disrupts the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.

General Practices

- Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drain. Look for and clean up material that may have traveled away from your property.
- Keep materials out of the rain by storing them indoors or outdoors with a secure roof or plastic sheeting.

Erosion Control

- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt and sand with plastic tarps.
- Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.

Recycle

Use a crushing company to recycle cement, asphalt and porcelain rather than taking them to a landfill. For a listing of companies that accepts these materials, call the:

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
1 (800) 974-9794

Spill Response Agencies

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
Stormwater Management Division
1 (800) 974-9794

City of Los Angeles
Police Department, Hazardous Materials Unit
(213) 237-2793 or (213) 485-4011

Los Angeles Fire Department
Health/Hazardous Materials Program
City: (213) 485-8080 County: (213) 890-4045

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

City of Los Angeles
Small Business Hazardous Waste Hotline
(800) 98-TOXIC/ 988-6942

Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division
(213) 847-1444

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Hotline
1 (800) 552-5218

To Report Illegal Dumping

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
Stormwater Management Division
1 (800) 974-9794

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
1 (800) 303-0003

To Report a Clogged Catch Basin

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
Stormwater Management Division
1 (800) 974-9794

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
(818) 458-HELP or (888) CLEAN-LA

This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

Automotive Maintenance & Car Care

Food Service Industry

Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application

General Construction & Site Supervision

Heavy Equipment & Earthmoving Activities

Horse Owners & Equine Industry

Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control

Painting

Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi & Fountain Maintenance

Roadwork & Paving

For more information about storm drain protection or additional pamphlets, call:



www.LAstormwater.org
1 (800) 974-9794
Bureau of Sanitation
Department of Public Works
City of Los Angeles

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Home Repair & Remodeling

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

Do-It-Yourself Landscapers
Do-It-Yourself Painters
Do-It-Yourself Remodelers
Homeowners



Ocean Pollution Prevention It's Up to Us



Los Angeles 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 out to the ocean.

Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to the ocean.

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

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to the ocean through the storm drain system—1,500 miles of pipes that take water and debris straight from Los Angeles streets to the ocean. Each day, 100 million gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our surf and over 4,300 *tons* of trash on our beaches annually.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates the ocean, closes beaches, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure a cleaner ocean and city.

① Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Household toxics—such as common household cleaners, paint products and motor oil—can pollute the ocean and poison the groundwater if not disposed of as hazardous waste.

- Take your household chemicals and toxics to a local Household Hazardous Waste Roundup or the City of Los Angeles HazMobile instead of dumping them on the ground, down the sink or into a gutter, street or storm drain.
- Call the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation 1(800) 98-TOXIC or the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Department 1 (800) 552-5218 to find out when a neighborhood roundup event will take place in your community.



② Concrete & Masonry



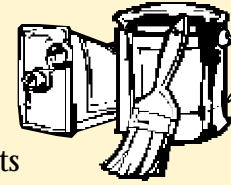
Fresh concrete and mortar application materials can wash down or blow into the street, gutter or storm drain, posing a hazard to sea life and humans.

- Do not mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use.
- Store bags of cement and plaster under cover. Protect these materials from rainfall, runoff and wind, away from gutters and storm drains.
- Never dispose of cement washout or concrete dust onto driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.

③ Painting

Paints and solvents contain chemicals that are harmful to sea life.

Toxic chemicals can come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues on rags. It is especially important to prevent these chemicals from entering storm drains.



Paint Cleanup

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter or storm drain.
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible. Clean with thinner and then filter and reuse thinner.
- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, then rinse in the sink.
- When thoroughly dry, used brushes, empty paint cans (lids off), rags and drop cloths may be disposed of as trash.

Paint Removal

- Chemical paint stripping residue, including saturated rags, is a hazardous waste and should be taken to a household hazardous waste collection event.
- Chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin are also hazardous wastes. Sweep them up and save them for a household hazardous waste collection event.



Paint Recycling

- Reuse leftover paint for touch-ups or recycle it at a local household hazardous waste collection event, where it will be recycled or donated to a local graffiti paint-out program.

④ Landscaping & Gardening

Intensive gardening and landscaping increase the likelihood that garden chemicals and soil will wash into storm drains. Pesticides and herbicides not only kill garden invaders, they also harm insects, poison fish and contaminate ground and ocean water.



- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers and pesticides. Do not fertilize or use pesticides near ditches, gutters or storm drains.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers and chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- Do not blow, sweep, hose or rake leaves into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- In communities with curb-side yard waste recycling, place clippings and pruning waste in approved containers for pick up.
- Conserve water by using a drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray system.



For more detailed information please refer to the BMP pamphlets:

*Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control
Painting*

Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application