

September 1999



Alameda Countywide
Clean Water Program
A Consortium of Local Agencies

In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in Alameda County have joined to form the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP).

The ACCWP consists of the Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Alameda County, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Zone 7 of the District.

The Goal of the ACCWP is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks and the San Francisco Bay). The ACCWP encourages using Best Management Practices to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections.

The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

Industrial and Commercial Facilities

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, and the San Francisco Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, wastewater discharged to the storm drains is illegal.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, municipalities participating in the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP) have instituted a business education campaign and inspection program. Inspectors work with contractors and businesses to identify and control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible for their contractors' practices.*



Stormwater runoff from industrial and commercial businesses is one of the major contributors to stormwater pollution. Automotive fluids, paints, solvents, food wastes, grease, pesticides, herbicides, litter, cement and yard wastes are some of the pollutants that get into the storm drain system.

All businesses can conduct common-sense practices that require modest changes to routine operations or maintenance activities to reduce or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. The table on the reverse side of this page identifies activities of industrial and commercial businesses which contribute to urban runoff pollution and provides alternatives to control or eliminate these discharges.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention contact your local program representatives at **1-888-BAY-WISE**.

Best Management Practices

Follow these BMPs to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into the storm drains. The goal is "only rain in the storm drain."

Activities

Best Management Practices

Good Housekeeping Practices

- Keep work areas clean.
- Sweep parking lots and pick up litter regularly.

Process/Equipment Areas

- Identify all areas with outdoor equipment and storage of raw or waste materials that are exposed to stormwater and have potential to discharge pollutants to the storm drain system. When possible, bring work process areas, equipment, and transfer stations inside a building or under a roof.
- Inspect equipment and vehicles often for leaks. Follow preventive maintenance practices.
- Use drip trays and splash guards around and under vehicles and process equipment to contain leaks.
- Eliminate illegal connections to the storm drain system.

Washing

- All wash water with detergent must be collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- Wash equipment/vehicles in a designated and/or covered area where the wash water is collected to be recycled or discharged to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local wastewater treatment agency.
- If wet cleaning is required for small spills, use a 3-step process; 1) soak up with rags, 2) use absorbents, and 3) mop and collect water to dispose of in sink or sanitary sewer drain. Contact your local wastewater treatment agency.

Storage*

- Store materials such as grease, paints, detergents, metals, and raw materials in appropriate, labeled containers.
- Store stock-piled materials and equipment inside a building or "doghouse," under a roof, or covered with a tarp to prevent contact with rain. Contact your local hazardous materials/fire authorities and building department to determine if specific requirements on storage sheds apply.
- Use secondary containment measures for liquids stored outside and for liquids stored inside near a storm drain.

Material Use/
Waste Disposal*

- Handle materials carefully to avoid spills. Clean up any spills immediately.
- Establish a clean-up plan for minor and major spills, post it in the work area, and have clean-up kits in well-marked, accessible locations.
- Repair dumpsters that leak. Keep dumpster lids closed.
- Properly dispose or recycle all wastes. Materials that cannot be recycled must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste.
- When ordering materials, practice source reduction and minimize waste. Do not order more than can be used within the shelf life of the product.

Training

- Train and assign responsibility to specific employees on BMPs, good housekeeping practices, and what to do in the event of a spill.
- Inform your customers of the proper methods for disposing of fluids and wastes on your property.
- Label storm drain inlets so that employees and customers do not dispose of waste there.

*Hazardous Materials must comply with hazardous materials storage and disposal requirements.