



The Business Owner's Guide to BMPs (Best Management Practices)

An introduction to the Solvang Storm Water Management Program

Want to Know More?

The City of Solvang has an extensive Storm Water Management Program, with an even greater selection of information and useful tools to help your business be GREEN!

Take advantage of the following FREE services to you:

- BMP materials in print and via the web!
- Training Opportunities (Regional)
- One-on-One Training (City staff will come to you and conduct a free business practice audit and identify opportunities to incorporate BMPs!)

**Don't wait and violate!
Take care of business
now!**

For additional information contact:

The City of Solvang
Public Works Department
(805) 688-5575
www.CityofSolvang.com

About this Guide

Unless you're a construction contractor, most businesses don't realize that their practices may affect our streams and ocean with pollution.

This Guide will provide general Best management Practices (BMPs) for business operations. The BMPs are not limited to those presented in this handout. Additional resources are listed that provide a more extensive array of BMPs available.



Restaurants

Improper cleaning and waste handling practices can cause waste from restaurants to enter storm drains and pollute our streams.

- Use the least toxic cleaning products available and dispose of cleaners (solvents, floor cleaners and detergents) and cleaning rags properly.
- Wash floor mats, kitchen mats, filters and garbage cans in a mop sink, janitors sink or near the kitchen floor drain. This will insure that the wastewater will flow to the wastewater treatment plant and will not wash into the parking lot, alley, sidewalk, street or storm drain.
- Recycle grease and oil. Don't pour it into sinks, floor drains, dumpsters, or onto a parking lot or street. Grease can clog sewer drains and storm drains and harm aquatic life.
- If you pressure-wash your outdoor seating area, entrance, or surrounding sidewalk area with bleaches, strippers or detergents, this water must be vacuumed up and disposed of properly.

Recycling

- Create and maintain a system for separating waste products. Make sure recycle bins are easily accessible to staff.
- Grease and oil wastes can be recycled through a rendering or grease collection company.
- Paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, tin and #1 and #2 plastics can be segregated out of the waste stream and recycled.
- Purchase recycled products or products with a high recycled material content!



We Need Your Help! Inform Your Employees!

- Hold staff meetings to discuss the importance of pollution prevention.
- Share these tips with your employees to educate them about good cleaning practices
- Post reminders near trash and cleaning areas.
- Train employees in the use of spill clean-up materials. Log training sessions (date, instructor, attendees, etc.) for compliance with your injury, illness and prevention program.



Landscape Contractors

- Don't use pesticides during the rainy season as they may be carried by the next storm into the creeks or ocean. Better yet, reduce or thwart many pests, especially in the early stages of infestation.
- When irrigating the landscaped areas, avoid over-watering, not only to conserve water but to avoid runoff of water, which may carry nutrients and pesticides to the creek or ocean directly from the storm drain.
- Compost the material for your own use or properly dispose of yard waste in your green waste bin.
- Use toxic pesticides as a last resort. First use physical controls. Hand-picking traps, barriers, or a strong jet of water can reduce or thwart many pests, especially in the early stages of infestation. Or try

Biological controls. Many beneficial insects and animals eat detrimental insects. Encourage the "good" ones to live near your property.

Hotel and Hospitality



- Cleaning wastewaters generated from mopping, carpet cleaning and other cleaning practices must be disposed of properly via sanitary sewer. Also, wastewater generated from cleaning AC coils, air handlers, etc must NOT be allowed to find its way to the storm drain. Consider using steam cleaning and a wet vacuum to remove materials.
- Store and label substances properly and out of areas open to the environment (rain/flood) to avoid leaks and spills. Clean up spills immediately and dispose of properly. Remember—contain, control and clean-up! Routinely check storage areas, pipes, and equipment for leaks, spills and emissions of chemicals, paints and cleaners—repair any deficient items found!

- Have landscaping utilize BMPs such as minimizing use of pesticides and harmful chemicals, avoid over-watering to prevent run-off of water, and properly dispose of green waste.
- Keep dumpsters covered when not in use. Clean parking lots by sweeping or using equipment that collects dirty water (which must be disposed of to sanitary sewer). Post signs at trouble spots (ie—loading docks, dumpster areas, etc describing proper practices to prevent pollutants from reaching storm drains).
- Clean private catch basins annually, before the first rain and as needed thereafter.
- Encourage reuse and recycling in your operations. Use recycled products for your operations.
- Encourage staff to follow green-business practices with incentives or training opportunities.

Construction Contractors

- Cement:: Keep all concrete, plaster and cement mortars out of the streets, gutters, storm drains and creeks. Wash out concrete transit mixers and tools only when in designated wash out areas and never dispose of washout into the streets, catch basins, storm drains, drainage ditches, or creeks.



- Painting: never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, catch basin, gutter, storm drain or creek. Water based paint brushes may be rinsed in a drain leading to the sanitary sewer (via indoor plumbing). Excess paint should be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- Keep all stored or scrap materials such as sand, base rock, metal, wood or paper from entering the storm drain system. Keep separate and recycle when possible.
- Construction Contractors must follow the guidelines provided in the Developer's BMP and LID Manual and are subject to additional regulations.

Additional Resources



City of Solvang
www.CityofSolvang.com

Santa Barbara County—Project Clean Water
www.SBProjectCleanWater.org

