

# Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) can significantly reduce pollutant discharges from your construction site. Compliance with stormwater regulations can be as simple as minimizing stormwater contact with potential pollutants by providing covers and secondary containment for construction materials, designating areas away from storm drain systems for storing equipment and materials and implementing good housekeeping practices at the construction site.

- Protect all storm drain inlets and streams located near the construction site to prevent sediment-laden water from entering the storm drain system.
- Limit access to and from the site. Stabilize construction entrances/exits to minimize the track out of dirt and mud onto adjacent streets. Conduct frequent street sweeping.
- Protect stockpiles and construction materials from wind and rain by storing them under a roof, secured impermeable tarp or plastic sheeting.
- Avoid storing or stockpiling materials near storm drain inlets, gullies or streams.
- Phase grading operations to limit disturbed areas and duration of exposure.
- Perform major maintenance and repairs of vehicles and equipment offsite.
- Wash out concrete mixers only in designated washout areas at the construction site.
- Set-up and operate small concrete mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths.
- Keep construction sites clean by removing trash, debris, wastes, etc. on a regular basis.
- Clean up spills immediately using dry clean-up methods (e.g., absorbent materials such as cat litter, sand or rags for liquid spills; sweeping for dry spills such as cement, mortar or fertilizer) and by removing the contaminated soil from spills on dirt areas.
- Prevent erosion by implementing any or a combination of soil stabilization practices such as mulching, surface roughening, permanent or temporary seeding.

- Maintain all vehicles and equipment in good working condition. Inspect frequently for leaks and repair promptly.
- Practice proper waste disposal. Many construction materials and wastes, including solvents, water-based paint, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood and cleared vegetation can be recycled. Materials that cannot be recycled must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste.
- Cover open dumpsters with secured tarps or plastic sheeting. Never clean out a dumpster by washing it down on the construction site.
- Arrange for an adequate debris disposal schedule to insure that dumpsters do not overflow.



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*Make sure you Know the regulations*



**STORMWATER**

**CONSTRUCTION PERMIT  
REGULATIONS**



## Stormwater Management

Stormwater management, especially in urban areas, is becoming a necessary step in seeking reductions in pollutants in our waterways and presents new challenges. More often than not, end-of-pipe controls are not the best answer for removing pollutants from stormwater runoff. Pollutants in runoff enter our waterways in numerous ways and the best method of control is usually at the pollutant's source.

The US Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management are addressing stormwater management in several ways. A federal regulation, commonly known as Stormwater Phase II, requires permits for stormwater discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in urbanized areas and from construction activities disturbing one or more acres. To implement the law, ADEM has issued two general permits, one for MS4s in urbanized areas and one for construction activities. The permits are part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

The City of Gadsden has adopted Stormwater Management Regulations Ordinance Number 0-77-05. Adherence to the guidelines of this ordinance will allow the City to be in compliance with the NPDES regulation. More importantly, it will protect, maintain, and enhance the environment of the city and promote the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens by controlling discharges of pollutants to the city's stormwater system. This will maintain and improve the quality of the receiving waters into which the stormwater outfalls flow, including without limitation, all lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and groundwater of the city.

Stormwater Management Regulations Ordinance Number 0-77-05 requires that every person obtain a land disturbance permit from the city unless (a) the activity disturbs less than one acre of land and (b)(i) is outside the Riverfront Development District established by §30-61 or (ii) is outside a floodway as defined by §54-31. A land disturbance permit is required for all land disturbance activity, regardless of the size of the area disturbed, which occurs within the Riverfront Development District or within a defined floodway.

**Stormwater Management Regulations Ordinance Number 0-77-05 and the Land Disturbance Application may be obtained from City of Gadsden Engineering Department in room 302 of City Hall or at [www.cityofgadsden.com](http://www.cityofgadsden.com) by going to the Engineering Department page.**



## The Problem with Stormwater

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into the waterways. As stormwater flows from rooftops, over paved areas and lawns it picks up debris, chemicals, motor oil, animal waste and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, river or wetland, potentially contaminating the water we use for drinking, swimming and fishing. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Stormwater carries the residue of urban living. Toxic chemicals from automobiles, sediment from construction activities, bacteria from animal wastes and careless application of pesticides and fertilizers threaten the health of the waterway and can kill fish and other aquatic life.



## Stormwater Pollution from Construction Activities

The two most common sources of stormwater pollution problems associated with construction activities are erosion and sedimentation. Failure to maintain adequate erosion and sediment controls at construction sites often results in sediment discharges in the storm drain system, creating multiple problems once it enters local waterways.

Construction vehicles and heavy equipment can also track significant amounts of mud and sediment onto adjacent streets. Additionally, wind may transport construction materials and wastes into streets, storm drains, or directly into our local waterways.

## What should you do?

- Advance Planning to Prevent Pollution
- Remove existing vegetation only as needed.
- if possible, schedule excavation, grading and paving operations for dry weather periods.
- Designate a specific area of the construction site, well away from storm drain inlets or water courses, for material storage and equipment maintenance.
- Develop and implement an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls for the construction site.
- Practice source reduction by ordering only the amount of materials that are needed to finish the project.
- Educate your employees and subcontractors about stormwater management requirements and their pollution prevention responsibilities.
- Control the amount of surface runoff at the construction site by using detention or retention ponds or areas, bio areas, etc.