

# Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains flow directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean with no treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or wetlands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

All of the cities in San Mateo County have joined together with San Mateo County and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

## Who should use this brochure?

- Masons and bricklayers
- Sidewalk construction crews
- Patio construction workers
- Construction inspectors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers
- Homeowners

## Storm Drain Pollution from Masonry and Paving

Fresh concrete and cement-related mortars that wash into the Bay, streams, or ocean are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment. Disposing of these materials to the storm drains or creeks causes serious problems -- and is prohibited by law.

## What Can You Do?

### *General Business Practices*

- Wash out concrete mixers only in designated wash-out areas in your yard, away from storm drains and waterways, where the water will flow into a temporary waste pit in a dirt area. Let water percolate through soil. Dispose of settled, hardened concrete in the garbage. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse. **Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams.**
- Wash out chutes onto dirt areas at the site that do not flow to streets or drains.
- Both at your yard and the construction site, always store dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains or waterways. Protect dry materials from wind.
- Secure bags of cement after they are open. Be sure to keep wind-blown cement powder away from gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.

### *During Construction*

- Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use in a two-hour period.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths.
- When cleaning up after driveway or sidewalk construction, wash fines onto dirt areas, not down the driveway or into the street or storm drain.
- Make sure runoff does not reach gutters or storm drains. If necessary, divert runoff with temporary berms.
- Prevent aggregate wash from driveway/patio construction from entering storm drains. Either (a) hose aggregate wash onto dirt areas and spade into dirt; (b) drain onto a bermed surface, pump and dispose of it properly; or (c) block a storm drain inlet and vacuum washwater from a **catchment**.
- Protect applications of fresh concrete and mortar from rainfall and runoff until the material has dried.
- When breaking up paving, be sure to pick up all the pieces and dispose properly. Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a recycling facility or concrete plant.
- Protect nearby storm drain inlets during saw-cutting.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never bury solid or hazardous waste material.

### *Concrete Use In and Near Waterways*

- When sawcutting or sanding, ensure concrete dust does not enter waterway.
- Use sheeting or otherwise isolate concrete that is used in channels (e.g., for piers, etc.) for 2.5 weeks to one month to allow time for curing.

\*In the case where a municipality is involved with concrete/masonry and related clean-up, the responsible party shall be liable for the full cost of the municipality's clean-up. Costs include clean-up as well as the removal and proper disposal of all debris and construction waste from the exterior of the work site.

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures for specific types of construction industry activities. Other pamphlets include:

### **General Construction and Site Supervision**

#### **Landscaping, Gardening, and Pool Maintenance**

#### **Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives**

#### **Roadwork and Paving**

#### **Earth-Moving Activities**

#### **Heavy Equipment Operation**

#### **Dewatering Activities**

For more information about the countywide storm drain protection program, and additional brochures, call:



[www.flowstobay.org](http://www.flowstobay.org)  
San Mateo Countywide  
Stormwater Pollution Prevention  
Program (STOPPP)  
555 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

(650) 599-1406 Fax (650) 361-8227

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### **Spill Response:**

#### ***Non-emergency calls:***

1. Local stormwater program  
(see list below)
2. San Mateo County Environmental Health Division: (650) 363-4305
3. Governor's Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours):  
1-800-852-7550

#### ***Emergency calls only:***

Dial 911

### **Local Stormwater Programs:**

Town of Atherton	(650) 752-0541
City of Belmont	(650) 595-7427
City of Brisbane	(415) 508-2130
City of Burlingame	(650) 558-7230
Town of Colma	(650) 757-8895
City of Daly City	(650) 991-8200
City of East Palo Alto	(650) 853-3189
City of Foster City	(650) 286-3270
City of Half Moon Bay	(650) 726-8260
Town of Hillsborough	(650) 375-7411
City of Menlo Park	(650) 858-3420
City of Millbrae	(650) 259-2339
City of Pacifica	(650) 738-3767
Town of Portola Valley	(650) 851-1700
City of Redwood City	(650) 780-7464
City of San Bruno	(650) 616-7160
City of San Carlos	(650) 802-4370
City of San Mateo	(650) 522-7340
City of South San Francisco	(650) 877-8634
Town of Woodside	(650) 851-6790
County of San Mateo	(650) 363-4708

### **San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board:** (510) 622-2300

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# **Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application**



## **Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry**



San Mateo Countywide  
Stormwater Pollution  
Prevention Program  
(STOPPP)