

September 1999



Alameda Countywide  
Clean Water Program  
A Consortium of Local Agencies

# Outdoor Storage of Dry Materials

*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.

**K**eeping 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 outdoor materials storage areas contributes to urban runoff pollution. Sediment, metals, landscape waste, grease, automotive fluids, and concrete products are some of the pollutants that get into the storm drain system. Stockpiles of galvanized metal products are concentrated sources of pollutants.

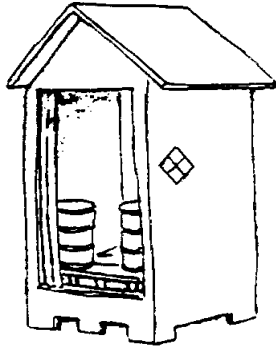
All businesses can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Some such practices related to outdoor storage of dry materials are identified on the reverse side of this page.

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."

- Keep rainfall from directly contacting dry materials stored outdoors by doing any of the following: \*\*



- move storage indoors
- cover the outdoor areas with a roof
- move materials into a shed
- cover the outdoor areas with plastic sheeting or a tarp, and secure with weighted tires or sand bags

- Store dry materials on a mounded area, on a pallet, or in a bermed area to keep rain from running onto or through the storage area.
- Sweep the area frequently; dispose of debris in the garbage.
- Keep dumpster areas free of litter and keep lids closed.
- Do not use the area for washing; wash water from cleaning operations must be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Contact the local wastewater treatment plant.
- Stencil storm drain inlets with "No Dumping, Drains to Bay" message.



\*\* Check with local building, zoning, and fire departments concerning indoor storage requirements.