

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STORMWATER

# Tips for Businesses

Commercial and industrial businesses are responsible for any activities on their property that lead to non-stormwater discharges to the street, gutter, or storm drain. The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff support businesses like yours in preventing water pollution and complying with stormwater regulations. The fact that you are reading this factsheet means you have already decided to take steps to do the right thing when maintaining your property. Thank you for keeping our water safe and healthy.

### General Practices

- Keep your business neat and clean – it saves time and money and prevents pollution.
- Know pollution sources from your business. Automotive fluids, paints, solvents, food wastes, grease, pesticides, herbicides, litter, sediment, cement and landscape wastes are some of the pollutants that get into the storm drain system.
- Protect your storm drain inlets from pollution of any kind (hose water, wastewater, and other liquid or solid waste).
- Protect materials from rain and runoff.
- Be prepared! Keep spill cleanup materials accessible and train staff so they know how to use them.
- Use dry methods to clean up spills whenever possible and never wash spills down the storm drain.
- Sweep parking lots and pick up litter regularly.
- Inspect equipment and vehicles often for leaks. Repair leaks promptly and use drip pans to collect leaks until fixed.

### Training Customers and Staff

- Make sure all staff know good housekeeping practices. Any material (liquid or solid) that is hosed off into streets or storm drains, or that could be carried to streets or storm drains by rainwater, is an illegal discharge.
- Post signs and/or notify staff to keep all dumpster and waste container lids closed, and outdoor areas clean.
- Label storm drain inlets so that customers and employees do not dispose of waste there.
- Post signs and/or notify staff of location of spill control equipment.



**Keep wash waters, wastewater, trash, and debris OUT of the storm drains. Keep oils, grease, and hazardous chemicals OUT of storm drains and sanitary sewers.**



Draining wash water from cleaning activities into the street or storm drains damages sensitive habitats and can kill wildlife. Water flowing into storm drains travels directly to local creeks and then to **San Francisco Bay**. It does not go to a wastewater treatment plant.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at [www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org).



Protecting Alameda County  
Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay

[cleanwaterprogram.org](http://cleanwaterprogram.org)

## Materials Management

- Perform work indoors or under cover whenever possible, to avoid exposure to rainfall, runoff, and wind. Small particles or dust must be contained and vacuumed.
- Store all equipment, materials and waste products indoors.
- Use caution and control when transferring liquids to minimize spill potential.

## Outdoor Storage and Waste Areas

- Cover and contain outdoor materials when not in-use.
- Have the right size, type, and number of waste containers/dumpsters/bins for your business activities.
- Keep the lids to dumpsters, recycling bins, and other waste containers closed when not in use. Ensure that they are not leaking or overfilled - inspect daily.
- Use secondary containment when storing fluids outside. Keep lids, caps, and openings closed when not in use.
- Store all items as far as possible from storm drain inlets.
- Use drip pans under outdoor work or storage areas where there is the potential for spills and leaks.

## Cleaning and Emergency Spill Control

- Clean up any spills immediately using dry cleanup methods.
- For drips or spills, absorbents, rags or cat litter may be used, then swept up and properly disposed of.
- If wet cleaning methods are required, block storm drains, use minimal water, and collect wash water for proper disposal.
- It is important that wash water on your property is collected and disposed of at an approved location – never into the street, parking lot, or storm drain.
- Consider hiring a Mobile Cleaner recognized by the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association. Visit [www.basmaa.org/featured-programs-projects/surface-cleaning-program/](http://www.basmaa.org/featured-programs-projects/surface-cleaning-program/).

### KEY DEFINITIONS

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.



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[cleanwaterprogram.org](http://cleanwaterprogram.org)

### CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Simple changes to your operations and maintenance, whether you're in an Automotive, Food, Industrial, or Landscaping business, can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at [www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org).

## Local Stormwater Agencies

For advice on avoiding disposal to the storm drain system, contact:

Alameda.....	(510) 747-7930
Albany .....	(510) 528-5770
Berkeley.....	(510) 981-6400
Dublin .....	(925) 833-6630
Emeryville .....	(510) 596-3728
Fremont .....	(510) 494-4570
Hayward .....	(510) 881-7900
Livermore .....	(925) 960-8100
Newark .....	(510) 578-4286
Oakland .....	(510) 238-6600
Piedmont.....	(510) 420-3050
Pleasanton .....	(925) 931-5500
San Leandro.....	(510) 577-3401
Unincorp. Alameda County....	(510) 567-6702
Union City.....	(510) 675-5308

## For More Help

For advice and approval on wastewater disposal to the sanitary sewer system, contact:

### Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland or Piedmont

East Bay Municipal

Utility District (EBMUD)..... (510) 287-1651

### Castro Valley

Castro Valley Sanitary District..(510) 537-0757

### City of Dublin

Dublin-San Ramon

Services District..... (925) 828-0515

### Cities of Fremont, Newark or Union City

Union Sanitary District..... (510) 477-7500

### City of Hayward

City of Hayward .....

### City of Livermore

City of Livermore .....

### City of Pleasanton

City of Pleasanton .....

### Cities of San Lorenzo, unincorporated portions of San Leandro and Hayward

Oro Loma Sanitary District .... (510) 481-6971

### City of San Leandro

City of San Leandro..... (510) 577-3401