

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In South Santa Clara County, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and Monterey Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or baylands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion; 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.

The Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill have joined together with Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to educate local residents and businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Join us by following the practices described in this pamphlet.

## Doing the Job Right

### General Business Practices

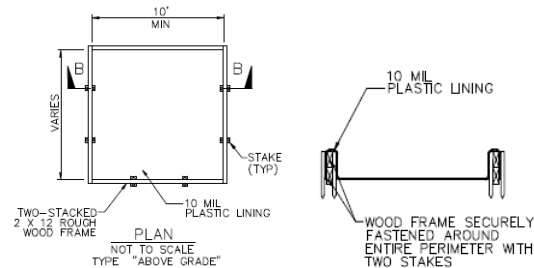
- Wash out concrete equipment/mixers/trucks only in designated wash-out containers/areas in your yard, where the water will flow into a temporary lined waste pit, and in a manner that will prevent leaching into underlying soils.
- Dispose of settled, hardened concrete as garbage. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse. **Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, streams, or dirt/landscape.**
- Always store both dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains or waterways. Store materials off the ground, on pallets. Protect dry materials from wind.
- Secure bags of cement after they are open. Be sure to keep wind-blown cement powder away from streets, gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.

## Storm Drain Pollution from Masonry and Paving

Fresh concrete, stucco and cement-related mortars that wash into the Monterey Bay, lakes, streams, or estuaries 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.

### Concrete Use & Sawcutting Near Waterways

- On larger sites, locate washout areas at least 50 feet from storm drains, open ditches, or bodies of water. Washout areas should be located away from construction traffic or access areas to prevent disturbance or tracking.



- When saw cutting or sanding, ensure concrete dust does not enter waterway. Use filter fabric, catch basin inlet filters, or gravel bags to keep slurry out of the storm drain system. If residue does enter a catch basin inlet, clean it up immediately.
- Saw cutting residue should not be allowed to flow across the pavement and should not be left on the surface of the pavement.
- Shovel, absorb, or vacuum saw-cut slurry and dispose of all waste as soon as you are finished in one location or at the end of each work day (whichever is sooner!)



### During Construction

- Don't mix more concrete, stucco 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. If necessary, divert runoff with temporary berms. If possible, sweep first.
- Protect applications of fresh concrete, stucco and mortar from rainfall and runoff until the material has dried.
- Wash down exposed aggregate concrete only when the wash water can (1) flow onto a dirt area; (2) drain onto a bermed surface from which it can be pumped and disposed of properly; or (3) block any storm drain inlets and vacuum washwater from the gutter. If possible, sweep first.
- When breaking up pavement, be sure to pick up all pieces and dispose of properly. Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a recycling facility or concrete plant.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, stucco, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never bury solid or hazardous waste material.

## Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are eligible to use Santa Clara County's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Disposal Program. Call (800) 207-8222 for a quote, more information or guidance on disposal.

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

### *Home Repair and Remodeling*

### *General Construction and Site Supervision*

### *Landscaping and Gardening*

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

### *Roadwork and Paving*

### *Earth Moving and Heavy Equipment Operation*

### *Dewatering Activities*

For additional brochures, visit the City of Gilroy website at: <http://www.cityofgilroy.org/261/Storm-Water-Management>, or call City Hall at (408)-846-0400 for more information.

The City of Gilroy would like to thank SCVURPPP for providing information contained in this brochure.



**Santa Clara Valley  
Urban Runoff  
Pollution Prevention Program**

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## Spill Response Agencies:

1. City of Gilroy, call (408) 846-0350.
2. City of Morgan Hill, call (408) 776-7333.
3. Unincorporated Santa Clara County, call (408) 918-3400.
4. In other cities, find the contact number at [www.scvurppp-w2k.com/report\\_spill.shtml](http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/report_spill.shtml) or **DIAL 9-1-1**
5. State Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours). . . . . **1-800-852-7550**
6. Santa Clara County's Illegal Dumping/ Discharge Hotline. . . . . (408) 918-3400

## Local Pollution Control Agencies

County of Santa Clara Integrated Waste Management Program. . . . . (408) 282-3180

County of Santa Clara District Attorney Environmental Crimes Hotline. . . . (408) 299-TIPS

Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline. . . . . 1-800-533-8414

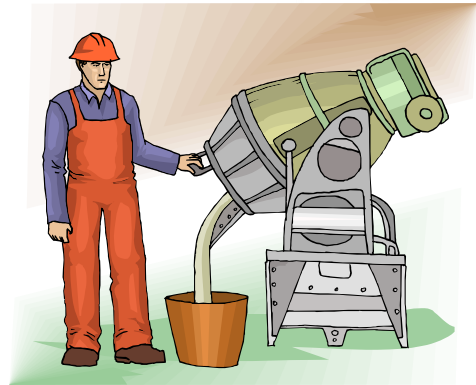
Santa Clara Valley Water District. . . . . (408) 265-2600

Santa Clara Valley Water District Pollution Hotline. . . . . 1-888-510-5151

South County Regional Wastewater Facility Serving Gilroy and Morgan Hill.....(408) 846-0202

# Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

## *Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Construction Industry*



## Who should use this brochure?

- Masons and bricklayers
- Sidewalk construction crews
- Patio construction workers
- Construction inspectors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers
- Concrete delivery/pumping workers