COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

General Pollution Prevention

The *County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program* supports businesses in their efforts to prevent pollution by offering these important Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Water that is released into the streets, gutters, and storm drains in San Diego County IS NOT TREATED before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. All sources of pollution are prohibited from leaving your property and entering streets or storm drains. Only rainwater is allowed in the streets and storm drains. ***These general pollution prevention tips for your business will help keep our waterways clean.***

we can **protect our waterways** with just a few steps.

Indoors

OFFICE

- Reduce paper use by making double-sided copying and printing a standard practice.
- Eliminate unnecessary paper by making forms electronic or reducing their size.
- Re-use outdated forms or scrap paper for note pads.
- Choose products with less packaging and containers that can be re-filled.
- Purchase recycled paper and products when possible.
- Remove your company name from junk mail lists by canceling unused catalogs or solicitations.
- Update your company mailing lists to eliminate duplication of materials and postal costs.
- Reuse packaging materials.
- Purchase only what you need. Re-order as you reach a minimum threshold.
- Encourage customers to reduce waste by reusing bags, containers, and other product re-use.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

- The County of San Diego has a mandatory recycling ordinance. If your business is located in the unincorporated area, contact the Recycling Hotline to request a FREE recycling consultation for your business 877-R1Earth (877-713-2784).

more tips > > >

For more information, call the Stormwater Hotline at (888) 846-0800 or visit www.sandiegocounty.gov/dpw/watersheds.html for the WPO.

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Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the storm drain system or waterways is a violation of the County's Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). ***Your business is required to comply with the WPO and the following minimum BMPs.***

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

- ☐ If your business is located in a city, contact your city for more information on recycling.
- ☐ Inspect trash and recycling areas for misplaced recyclables. Place items in appropriate bins.

Outdoors

LITTER AND DEBRIS

- ☐ Routinely sweep up dirt, leaves, and clippings on parking lots and paved areas.
- ☐ Conveniently place trashcans with lids to reduce littering and "fly away" litter.
- ☐ Post "No Dumping or Littering" signs on your property.

LANDSCAPING

- ☐ Use pesticides and fertilizers according to label instructions and do not apply the chemicals before rain.
- ☐ Remove litter, debris, and organic matter from landscaped areas.
- ☐ Adjust sprinkler heads to avoid over-watering and runoff.
- ☐ Use native or drought tolerant plants. These plants reduce maintenance and water use.
- ☐ Conserve water by reducing or eliminating turf.
- ☐ Encourage landscapers to recycle green waste.

EROSION

- ☐ Remove or cover any accumulations of materials such as soils, fertilizer, or potting material.
- ☐ Protect disturbed slopes that are more than five feet in height, more than 250 square feet in total area, and steeper than 3:1 (run-to-rise) from erosion.

RUNOFF

- ☐ Route roof downspouts away from work areas and toward pervious areas such as landscapes.
- ☐ Temporarily cover storm drain inlets before performing any activity involving fluids that could result in spills, leaks, or runoff.
- ☐ Periodically clean the rooftops of your building(s).
- ☐ If vehicle washing is conducted, contain all wash water so it does not enter the storm drain.
- ☐ Use drip pans or other methods of spill containment for equipment stored outdoors.

For more information and other ideas, check with local agencies, trade association newsletters, and magazines.

thank you
for doing your part to protect our waterways.

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