



Midwest Research Institute



FLORIDA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



CONSORTIUM  
for POLLUTION  
PREVENTION  
EDUCATION

<http://www.fc3p2e.com>

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## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's)

### General Construction & Site Supervision



Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

- General Contractors
- Construction Inspectors
- Home Builders
- Developers
- Masons & Bricklayers
- Patio Construction Workers
- Sidewalk Construction Crews

## Pollution Prevention It's Up to Us

The storm drainage systems of Florida lead to our local water bodies, and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean. Storm drains were designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets out to Florida waterways. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying stormwater runoff, also referred to as *Pointless Personal Pollution*, straight to these waterways.

When it rains, water mixes with pollutants creating *Pointless Personal Pollution*. The pollutants include oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

*Pointless Personal Pollution* flows to our waterways through the storm drain system. Each day, polluted runoff enters the water untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash in our water.

*Pointless Personal Pollution* contaminates the waterways, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent *Pointless Personal Pollution* through Best Management Practices (BMPs). Using these BMPs will ensure cleaner waterways.



Environmental Awareness Saves Our Planet!

This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

- Painting
- Roadwork & Paving
- Concrete & Mortar Application
- Heavy Equipment
- Food Service Industry
- Automotive Maintenance & Car Care
- Landscaping Gardening & Pest Control

## General Construction & Site Supervision Problems

Construction sites are common sources of **Pointless Personal Pollution**. Materials and wastes blown or washed into a street, gutter or storm drain flow directly to Florida's waterways. Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it enters Florida's waterways.

Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases water temperature, all of which harm aquatic life, disturbing the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.

Sediment also carries with it other work-site pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, cement wash, asphalt and car fluids like motor oil, grease and fuel. Thus, poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel and oil at the construction site also contribute to water pollution.

As a contractor, site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, *you may be held responsible for the environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.*

## Solutions

**Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering waterways through the storm drain system.**



## Solutions for General Construction & Site Supervision Problems

### General Business Practices

**Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces.** Place trash cans and recycling receptacles around the site.

**Cover and maintain dumpsters.** Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under a roof or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting.

### Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on-site!

**Keep materials out of the rain.** Cover exposed piles of soil or construction materials with plastic sheeting or temporary roofs.

**Designate one area** for auto parking, vehicle refueling and routine equipment maintenance. The designated area should be well away from gutters or storm drains. Make all major repairs off-site.



**Make sure portable toilets are in good working order.** Check frequently for leaks.

**Use as little water as possible** for dust control.

### Cleaning Up

**Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately.** This will prevent contaminated soil or residue on paved surfaces.

**Never hose down "dirty" pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled.** Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.

### Planning to Prevent Pollution

An erosion control program, worked out before construction begins, prevents or minimizes most erosion and sedimentation problems.



**Train your employees and subcontractors.** Make these pamphlets available to everyone working on-site. Inform subcontractors about storm water requirements and their own responsibilities.

**Schedule excavation and grading activities** for dry weather periods.

**Control surface runoff to reduce erosion,** especially during excavation. Use drainage ditches to divert water flow.

**Use gravel approaches to reduce soil compaction** and limit the tracking of sediments into streets, where truck traffic is frequent.

**Prevent erosion by planting** fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.

**Do not remove trees or shrubs unnecessarily.** They help decrease erosion.



### Handling Materials & Wastes

**Practice Source Reduction**—minimize waste when ordering materials. Order only the amounts needed to complete the job.

**Use recycled and recyclable materials** whenever possible.

**Never bury waste materials or leave them in the street.**



**Dispose of all waste properly.** Many construction materials, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation can be recycled. Non-recyclable materials must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste.

**Use a crushing company** to recycle cement, asphalt and porcelain rather than taking them to a landfill.

## Contacts



To report a spill, learn about waste disposal or report illegal dumping please contact your local public works department. For more information contact your local Water Management District.

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|-------------------|--------------|
| Northwest Florida | 850-539-5999 |
| St. Johns River   | 386-329-4500 |
| Southwest Florida | 352-796-7211 |
| South Florida     | 561-686-8800 |
| Suwannee River    | 386-362-1001 |