

Best Management Practices for Construction

Installing erosion and sediment controls:

- Keep as much existing vegetation as possible
- If possible, clear site during dry season or dry period
- When an area is not being worked on, cover the exposed area with straw or matting
- Install check dams, bio bags, wattles or other sediment control methods to reduce runoff entering the storm drains
- Plan clearing times to minimize the amount of time the soil is exposed



Developing construction site management plans:

- Identify and map any manmade or natural drainage systems on or near the site
- Make an erosion prevention and control plan that is flexible to accommodate for various weather and other site conditions
- Identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the amount of soil exposed, the amount of soil transported, and the capture of any sediment runoff before it leaves the site

Controlling runoff during construction:

- Using diversion dikes, ditches, and diversion swales to divert runoff from exposed soil, away from drainage areas



- Slow the speed of runoff by restoring vegetation, roughening surfaces, and installing check dams or silt fences

Keeping concrete and mortar out of storm drains:

- Only wash equipment off in designated wash areas
- Never wash concrete or mortar into a stream, storm drain or public right of way, including the vegetated strip between curb and sidewalk

Keep the work area clean:

- Clean and properly dispose of any litter onsite
- Sweep debris and sediment away from drainage areas and dispose of sweepings properly
- Regularly maintain construction vehicles and equipment to reduce leaks
- Cover and store potentially polluting materials in appropriate manner
- Use drop cloths and tarps to catch chips and other falling debris
- Be prepared for any possible spills with a spill response plan



Preparing for spills:

- Spill response plans should include: contact names and phone numbers, clean-up instructions, and locations of containment and clean-up materials



- In case of spill, immediately stop the source of the spill and cover the spill with absorbent material