

Alternative Safer Practices

Best Management Practices

The computer is an efficient way to research a specific product or to look for less toxic alternative products for currently used chemicals



Selection of Best Management Practices

In order to comply with Santa Barbara County's Municipal Storm Water Permit, Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be employed at municipal facilities. BMPs may be selected from the options listed below or developed on a case-by-case basis as appropriate. Facilities with a Water Quality Protection Protocol (WQPP) should follow the BMPs stated in that protocol.

Practices

Since cleanup of pollution is expensive, time consuming and not very effective, it is better to prevent the release of pollutants in the first place. EPA defines the hierarchy of environmental management as follows: First, aim to prevent waste, that which can't be prevented should be recycled, that which can't be recycled should be treated safely, and only that which can't be treated safely should be disposed of properly.

1. Evaluate safer alternative products for any job that uses toxic or hazardous products. For instance, investigate non-caustic detergents, alternative floor and window cleaners, adhesives, paints, lubricants and construction materials, such as carpet and wood. Lighting and energy use also can be evaluated for lower environmental impacts. When available and cost effective, safer products should be used.
2. Carefully evaluate specialty products, such as metal cleaners and degreasers. They often contain compounds that create hazardous waste and therefore cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

Goal / Purpose

To reduce the use of hazardous materials, which will reduce the potential for hazardous compounds to be released to the storm water system.

Santa Barbara County

[www.countyofsb.org/
project_cleanwater](http://www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater)

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Web sites with alternative product information

There are numerous web sites with information on safer products and practices. The three listed below are quite comprehensive and have links to other informative web sites. A search of the web will identify hundreds of other sites and companies. If you wish to conduct your own search key word include alternative, safer, non-toxic, and green.

3. **Government Service Administration (GSA)** provides some products under a green program. Their web site has data on a variety of products with specific data on the hazardous ingredients of each product. There are guides for alternatives to specific chemicals. Since the internal page address keeps changing go to their main page and then conduct a key word search.

www.gsa.gov

4. **EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)** has numerous documents to help in the selection of safer alternative products. A wide variety of products and activities are covered. EPA started this program to help agencies prevent waste and pollution by considering environmental impacts along with price, performance and other traditional factors when deciding on what to buy. “The government’s purchase and use of products and services leave a large environmental footprint. Through its purchasing decisions, government can minimize environmental impacts while giving a boost to manufacturers that produce environmentally preferable products and services.”

The EPP Program serves as a clearinghouse of information and tools to facilitate purchase of environmentally preferable products and services.

“EPP’s audience is not limited to the Federal government. Businesses, non-profit organizations, and state & local government agencies have found the program to be of interest and value”.

www.epa.gov/opptinter/epp

5. **EPA Region IX Janitorial Products Pollution Prevention Project (“JP4”)** has a web site specifically for cleaning products. Their JP4 program is producing a series of fact sheets and commentaries on environmental, health, and safety issues. The fact sheets are meant for individual janitorial

Associated BMPs

- Housekeeping
- Building Maintenance & Repairs
- Landscape & Undeveloped Areas
- Metal, Wood, Printing & Paint Shops
- Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance & Repair
- Vehicle & Equipment Washing & Steam Cleaning

workers, supervisors, and environmental, health & safety staff. “One third of the cleaning chemicals used today have ingredients that can harm you. These ingredients are in products for cleaning glass, restroom fixtures, metal, kitchens, carpets, and hard floors, to name only a few.” This site has fact sheets and pilot test data to help in the selection of products and practices.

www.westp2.net/Janitorial/jp4.htm

6. Utilize other websites and references to locate alternative products.

Contractors Requirements

7. Ensure that contracts will contain specific language to inform the contractor that they will comply with federal, state and local storm water rules and regulations as required by the Clean Water Act. Amend existing contracts to include this language, if not already included.

Employee Training

Staff training may include regular tailgate sessions at those facilities that use chemicals. Tailgate sessions should provide information on the selected storm water BMPs and methods for preventing discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system. Encourage employees to suggest modifications for existing BMPs and to create new BMPs; their suggestions will likely reduce labor and increase stormwater runoff protection. If the above suggested BMPs require some modification to work for you or do not cover some aspect of your operations or facility, call Project Clean Water at 568-3440 for assistance.

Storm water BMP training may be incorporated with other training sessions such as safety training. Facilities with a Storm Water Plan should follow the training requirements stated in that Plan. Records of the training sessions must be kept for at least three years. These records should include who conducted the training, who attended, subjects discussed, and the date(s) of the training.

For additional information on this and other BMPs, or the County’s responsibilities under the NPDES Phase II federal regulations for storm water discharges, see **www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater** or contact Project Clean Water staff at 568-3440.