

# Spill Prevention & Cleanup Best Management Practices

Many spills can be cleaned by using absorbent material, which can then be scooped up and disposed of properly.



## 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

1. **Always know what the spilled or released material is before trying to clean it up.**
2. Refer to your facility-specific spill response plan or develop a reasonable procedure for identifying, reporting, and cleaning up liquids and solids. Spill response information can be found in your Hazardous Materials Business Plan, Hazardous Materials Management Plan, and/or Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan. Designate employees, who are trained, to respond for cleanup duty.
3. Always have spill response equipment available near loading and storage areas for prompt cleanup. Different chemicals can require different cleanup methods; keep the appropriate equipment for the chemicals transferred, stored and used onsite.
4. Promptly clean up any spill of liquid or solid waste. Do not hose down an area to clean or handle a spill, unless the liquid will be completely contained, cleaned up and disposed of to sanitary sewer or offsite (whichever is appro-

## Goal / Purpose

Prevent discharge of contaminants and hazardous compounds into the storm water system.

Santa Barbara County

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appropriate for the waste type). Do not discharge any liquid or solid to storm drains, landscape or to pavement.

5. Use a shop rag for cleaning up drips and small spills; do not saturate the rag. Do not use paper towels for hazardous wastes. Dirty rags used to clean up hazardous wastes must be handled in compliance with the hazardous waste regulations and the Department of Toxic Substance Control guidance.
6. Use a dedicated shop vacuum, wet mop or absorbent materials for larger spills; dispose of waste properly.
7. Do not use drains without knowing whether they connect to the sanitary sewer, storm system or self-contained internal sump. Confirm before using drains to ensure proper disposal.
8. Prevention is the best spill control. Review the associated BMP Fact Sheets for spill prevention options applicable to your facility (see sidebar).
9. Spill Response Kits (Kits) are available for handling spills and leaks in the field. These Kits are sized according to the equipment in use - from large construction equipment (such as excavators) to small hand held tools (such as chain saws).

### Contractors Requirements

10. Contracts must contain specific language to inform the contractor that they must comply with federal, state and local storm water rules and regulations as required by the Clean Water Act. Existing contracts will be amended to include this language, if not already included.

### Employee Training

Staff training may include regular tailgate sessions at those facilities responsible for handling a spill at their facility. 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 storm water 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.

### Associated BMPs

- Housekeeping
- Loading and Unloading
- Material & Hazardous Waste Storage
- Storm Drains & Catch Basins

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](http://www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater) or contact Project Clean Water staff at 568-3440.