

SPILL RESPONSE / HAZARDOUS DISCHARGES

City of Torrance Fire Department
Hazardous Materials Division
Dispatch (310) 781-7042

TO CONNECT TO THE STORM DRAIN

It is illegal to connect to the storm drain without a permit. To obtain a storm drain connection permit, contact the City of Torrance Community Development Department at (310) 618-5898
Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm

TO CONNECT TO THE COUNTY SEWER

Los Angeles County Sanitation District
(562) 699-7411 Ext. 2727

RECYCLING AND HAZARDOUS WASTE INFORMATION

Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works,
Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
1-888-CleanLA (1-888-253-2652) or log onto
www.888CleanLA.com

For more information on recycling and waste management, visit: www.RecycleTorrance.org

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping of trash, paint products, motor oil and other chemicals into storm drains is against the law!

To report illegal discharges or dumping to the storm drain system anywhere in Los Angeles County at any time, call:
1-888-CleanLA (1-888-253-2652)

TO REPORT A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN OR INLET

City of Torrance
Public Works Department
Mon-Thurs 7am-5pm
(310) 781-6900

To report a clogged storm drain inlet or catch basin anywhere in Los Angeles County at anytime, call:
Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works
1-800-675-HELP or (626) 458-4357

This brochure is one of a series of brochures describing storm drain protection measures.

Other brochures include:

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE & CAR CARE

FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY

FRESH CONCRETE & MORTAR APPLICATION

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING

HEAVY EQUIPMENT & EARTH-MOVING
ACTIVITIES

LANDSCAPING GARDENING & PEST
CONTROL

PAINTING

ROADWORK & PAVING

SPA & SWIMMING POOL OWNERS

For more information about storm drain protection or additional brochures, call the



CITY OF TORRANCE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT
(310) 618-5990

www.888CleanLA.com

*The City of Torrance gratefully acknowledges the
City of Los Angeles for brochure concept and design.*



Printed on recycled paper.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

General Construction & Site Supervision



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Safe Environment Practices and
Procedures for:

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

Stormwater Pollution – It's Up to Us

The City of Torrance has two drainage systems - the sewers and the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets out to the ocean.

During storms in urban areas, rainwater may mix with pollutants in industrial and household runoff, creating storm water pollution.

Most runoff from the streets of Torrance discharges directly to the Pacific Ocean via the storm drain system. The pollutants include: oil from vehicle fluids leaked on parking lots and other automotive fluids, trash from improper waste disposal, construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Look for curbside catch basins and other storm drain inlets in and near the workplace. These should be labeled with stencils that say "NO DUMPING: DRAINS TO OCEAN". All of us need to make sure that only clean storm drain water runoff is allowed to enter these inlets.



General Construction Problems

Construction sites are common sources of urban runoff pollution. Materials and wastes blown or washed into a street, gutter or storm drain flow directly to the ocean.

Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it enters the ocean. Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases ocean 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 ocean pollution.

As a contractor, site supervisors, owner or operator of a site, you may be 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 the ocean through the storm drain system.

1 • 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 situated away from gutters or storm drains. Make 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.



2 • Clean Up Spills

- Sweep up dry spilled materials immediately. Never attempt to bury them or "wash them away" with water.
- Never hose down "dirty" pavement or impermeable surfaces where fluids have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.

3 • Advance 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 brochures available to everyone working on site. Inform subcontractors about the stormwater requirements and their own responsibility.



- 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.
- **Prevent erosion by planting** fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.
- Use gravel approaches to reduce soil compaction and limit the tracking of sediments into streets, where truck traffic is frequent.
- **Do not remove trees or shrubs unnecessarily.** They help decrease erosion.



4 • Handling Materials & Waste

- Practice Source Reduction—minimize waste when ordering material. 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.
- Unrecyclable materials must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste.

Many construction materials, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation can be recycled.

5 • Disposal Options

Use a crushing company like those listed below to recycle cement, asphalt and porcelain rather than taking them to a landfill.

Dan Copp Crushing, Inc.
Anaheim

1-800-DUMP SITE or (714) 777-6400

RJ Noble
Santa Ana
(714) 637-1550

Blue Diamond
Irwindale
(800) 300-4240