



HELP KEEP OUR
LOCAL WATERS
CLEAN AND
HEALTHY

– POLLUTION
PREVENTION FOR
CONSTRUCTION
SITES

*Plymouth Stormwater
Management Team*

*[Following include excerpts from a
MassDCR fact sheet]*

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Contaminated stormwater is a source of pollutants in many of our ponds, lakes, rivers and harbors. Storm drains carry runoff from streets, businesses, homes, industrial uses, and construction sites into freshwater and marine waterbodies.

Construction activities are only one contributor to this problem, but they are known to be a source of sediments, oily wastes, and other substances.

Reducing or eliminating the exposure of construction operations to rainfall and runoff is a proven way to reduce pollution that damages our local waters.

What Is a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan?

The EPA Construction General Permit is needed if more than one acre of disturbance is proposed and stormwater may runoff from construction site. This permit requires a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) before any work begins.

A SWPPP is a plan to control stormwater discharges from the site. It is broader and more complicated than a typical sediment and erosion control plan. A SWPPP needs to be updated as work progresses, and the plan must be available on site. For detail refer to: www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program.

Plan in Advance to Prevent Pollution

Legally, the only thing that should leave the project site and enter a storm drain is clean, unpolluted rain runoff. Effective stormwater management requires that all potential pollutants are recognized, and a plan is designed to protect the health of local waters.

- ☐ Remove existing vegetation only as needed.
- ☐ Schedule excavation, grading and paving work for dry weather periods.
- ☐ Designate specific areas of site, well away from storm drains or waterways, for material storage and equipment maintenance.
- ☐ Have extra erosion controls (such as hay bales and silt fence/silt sock) on site for emergency.
- ☐ Develop and implement a combination of effective erosion and sediment controls for site.

Employee training program

Train employees and subcontractors about their responsibilities for pollution prevention.



Good housekeeping and Best Management Practices will prevent and reduce pollutant discharges from construction sites.

Spill prevention and response procedures enable a rapid response to spills that may occur. Typical spill prevention and response procedures include:

- ☐ Identifying potential discharge locations.
- ☐ Training employees in proper spill prevention and response techniques.
- ☐ Respond to small spills immediately using dry clean-up methods and sweep as soon as possible.
- ☐ Posting contact information for all individuals who need to be notified in the event of a spill.
- ☐ Promptly reporting and documenting any spills or leaks to appropriate individuals.

Erosion and sediment control management

Where soils are exposed to water, wind, or ice, erosion can result. Typical non-structural BMPs that can be implemented to control sediment include:

- ☐ Protecting all storm drain inlets and any streams, ponds and wetlands near the construction site.
- ☐ Limiting access to and from the site and stabilize construction entrances and exits.
- ☐ Minimizing the length of time bare soil is exposed
- ☐ Diverting or preventing runoff from flowing across exposed areas.
- ☐ Stabilizing disturbed soils as soon as possible.
- ☐ Maintaining all haybales and silt fence to ensure no materials escape and replace if necessary.

Dust control

Dust comes from stockpiles, cleared ground, gravel roads, and open areas. Non-structural methods to control dust include:

- ☐ Protect stockpiles by storing under a roof, tarp or plastic sheeting.
- ☐ Spraying controlled amounts of uncontaminated stormwater to dampen dust-generating areas.
- ☐ Sweep frequently.

Equipment and Materials Management

- ☐ Wash out concrete mixers only in designated washout areas away from brooks or ponds, and setup small mixers on tarps.
- ☐ Perform major maintenance and repairs of vehicles off the site.
- ☐ Remove trash, debris and wastes on frequent basis and ensure that dumpsters are covered.

Fertilizing grass to stabilize construction site

Grass clippings contain high amounts of nitrogen, a key ingredient in fertilizer. Use grass clippings by mulching in place. It may be all the fertilizer you need, and it will save time and money.

If you do apply fertilizer:

- ☐ Use organic or slow-release fertilizers that are less likely to runoff than fast-release fertilizers.
- ☐ Fertilize in the fall but beware of weather patterns. Although light rainfall is helpful in distributing fertilizer, a heavy downpour will wash the fertilizer into nearby waters.
- ☐ Be careful not to apply more than recommended amount of fertilizer. Too much fertilizer can burn the grass, damage the soil, and attract pests.

For a more comprehensive listing of Best Management Practices for the construction industry, go to EPA's website www.epa.gov and search construction stormwater.

Allowing stormwater sediment or other pollutants to runoff the construction site and enter a storm drain or waterway is a violation of federal, state and local water quality regulations.

Contact information

For more information on stormwater topics, visit the Town webpage
<https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/engineering/pages/stormwater>

Additional guidance is available at the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency website
www.epa.gov/nps

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection stormwater website also provides helpful information about reducing impacts of runoff on brooks, lakes and marine waters.

Lake and watershed groups in Town also offer stormwater guides on their websites.