

Cost Saving Tips - Part III: Non-Storm Water Management and Sediment Tracking Controls

Part III of the *Cost Saving Tips* bulletin series focuses on non-storm water management and sediment tracking Best Management Practices (BMPs). This is the final bulletin in the series.

Material Storage

Storage areas for liquid hazardous materials should be impervious and bermed, to prevent run-on and run-off. Concrete storage pads with curbs or berms to contain spills are generally more cost-effective than plastic-lined storage areas, especially for projects over one year in duration. Tears or rips often occur with plastic, requiring replacement and costly removal of contaminated soil.

Covering storage areas is another beneficial and cost saving practice. Covered areas using eaves help to keep rainwater from mixing with petroleum or chemical products, thereby reducing the need for expensive removal procedures. When building a cover, ensure that proper ventilation is provided.



Oil drums stored on pallets without proper containment. One drum has been tipped, contaminating the soil, which now requires disposal as hazardous waste.

Concrete Waste Management

Limit the number of designated concrete washout areas to avoid the expense of cleaning and maintaining several small washout areas. Make sure the washouts are sized appropriately for adequate storage capacity. Use clear, visible signs and educate the contractor to ensure the designated areas are used.

Spill Prevention

Maintain construction equipment to prevent oil or fuel leaks. If leaks or spills do occur, clean up as quickly as possible. This will reduce the possible need for more expensive removal procedures later, such as sandblasting, pavement rehabilitation, or mass soil disposal. Keep drip pans and absorbent materials on hand during vehicle or equipment maintenance and fueling for quick and easy clean up.



Absorbent pad used during maintenance of paving equipment. Spills or leaks are contained and can be disposed of quickly.

Sediment Tracking

Be creative with your BMPs. Use recycled materials, such as metal beam guardrail, to stabilize construction entrances and exits. Regular road inspection and cleaning will help prevent costly removal of accumulated sediment.

Practice good water conservation techniques. Prevent leaking hydrants and water tanks from adding to tracking problems.



Limit ingress and egress points to reduce the cost of installation and maintenance of stabilized construction entrances and exits.

Final Words of Wisdom

Here are some additional ideas to incorporate into your project for cost-effective storm water compliance:

- Discuss storm water compliance issues in safety meetings with all of the construction staff. Ask that everyone play a part in ensuring compliance.
- Coordinate site inspections with the contractor for better communication and identification of deficiencies.
- Know the staging of the job as it relates to drainage systems. This can prevent implementing costly BMPs on inactive

or soon to be abandoned drainage systems.

- Use storm water compliance assistance from a qualified group (district storm water coordinator, peer group, or Task Force) to ensure BMPs are being implemented properly and efficiently.

A new letter designation, R, has been added to the rating system. The R rating will be used to identify projects where the present construction situation creates a risk of uncontrolled discharges during a rain event. Revisits will be scheduled within 2 weeks on projects given an R rating. The District Storm Water Coordinator, District Management, and Headquarters personnel will be notified.

