

Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management

Solid waste and hazardous waste are two storm water management concerns on nearly every construction project. Effective solid waste management prevents trash and construction waste from clogging storm drain systems and littering the landscape. Hazardous waste management prevents substances that are potentially toxic to humans and wildlife from contaminating our receiving waters.

Solid waste and hazardous waste management are year-round requirements under the General Construction Storm Water permit. Although substantial improvement has been noted in the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to these issues, challenges of this type still exist on construction projects statewide. This bulletin takes a common sense approach to waste management as a guide for meeting storm water permit requirements.

Keep Your Solid Wastes to Yourself

Typical solid waste on construction sites includes: concrete rubble, metal scraps, wood, domestic waste (food containers, cups, plastic wrappers, etc.), material packing waste, and cleared vegetation. This trash and debris can plug storm drain systems and result in flooding and expensive removal operations.

CD13-Solid Waste Management, contains a number of procedures for preventing litter and construction waste from entering storm drain systems:

- Provide an adequate number of waste containers for the site, including containers at lunch areas.
- Collect site trash regularly, particularly during rainy or windy conditions.
- Use a trash hauler for regular waste pickup.
- Do not hose out dumpsters on site.

Don't Share Your Hazardous Wastes

Hazardous wastes found on a typical construction job site include used or excess petroleum products, curing compounds, pesticides, paints, solvents, and numerous chemical products. In addition to the guidelines contained in **CD14-hazardous Waste Management**, there are federal, state and local regulations for hazardous waste storage and disposal. Because of these many regulations, education is an essential component to understanding proper practices for compliance. CD14 includes the following practices as part of an effective hazardous waste program:

- Clearly label containers, identifying acceptable wastes for the container.
- Store containers in secondary containment, with the lids secure.
- Designate the storage area away from moving vehicles and equipment to prevent accidental spills.
- Arrange for regular waste collection to prevent container overflow.
- Properly dispose of rainwater in secondary containment that may have mixed with hazardous waste.
- Keep copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets in the project files for reference.
- Clean spills quickly and promptly.
- **For major contamination, large spills, and other serious hazardous waste incidents, obtain immediate response from specialists.**

But Spread the Common Sense Around

These commonsense practices apply to both solid and hazardous waste management:

- Educate employees about proper waste storage and disposal by incorporating the topic into regular safety meetings.
- Provide separate clearly labeled containers and storage areas for solid and hazardous wastes.
- Keep storage areas away from drainage inlets and watercourses.
- Protect storage areas from run-on and runoff with containment berms.
- Cover containers to prevent the potential impacts of wind and rain.



The contractor on this project has provided a covered and bermed storage area for hazardous materials.

