

# Stormwater Waste Handling and Disposal Program



**City of Brownsville Texas,  
Engineering and Public Works**



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## **Description**

Improper storage and handling of solid wastes can allow toxic compounds, oils and greases, heavy metals, nutrients, suspended solids, and other pollutants to enter stormwater runoff. The discharge of pollutants to stormwater from waste handling and disposal can be prevented and reduced by tracking waste generation, storage, and disposal; reducing waste generation and disposal through source reduction, reuse, and recycling; and preventing run-on and runoff.

## **Approach**

Reduce potential for pollutant discharge through source control pollution prevention and BMP implementation. Successful implementation depends on effective training of employees on applicable BMPs and general pollution prevention strategies and objectives.

## **General Pollution Prevention Protocols**

1. Accomplish reduction in the amount of waste generated using the following source controls:
  - a. Production planning and sequencing;
  - b. Process or equipment modification;
  - c. Raw material substitution or elimination;
  - d. Loss prevention and housekeeping;
  - e. Waste segregation and separation; and
  - f. Close loop recycling.
2. Establish a material tracking system to increase awareness about material usage. This may reduce spills and minimize contamination, thus reducing the amount of waste produced.
3. Recycle materials whenever possible.
4. Use the entire product before disposing of the container.
5. To the extent possible, store wastes under cover or indoors after ensuring all safety concerns such as fire hazard and ventilation are addressed.
6. Provide containers for each waste stream at each work station. Allow time after shift to clean area.

## **Good Housekeeping**

1. Cover storage containers with leak proof lids or some other means. If waste is not in containers, cover all waste piles (plastic tarps are acceptable coverage) and prevent stormwater run-on and runoff with a berm. The waste containers or piles must be covered except when in use.
2. Use drip pans or absorbent materials whenever grease containers are emptied by vacuum trucks or other means. Grease cannot be left on the ground. Collected grease must be properly disposed of as garbage.
3. Dispose of rinse and wash water from cleaning waste containers into a sanitary sewer if allowed by the local sewer authority. Do not discharge wash water to the street or storm drain. Clean in a designated wash area that drains to a clarifier.

4. Transfer waste from damaged containers into safe containers.
5. Take special care when loading or unloading wastes to minimize losses. Loading systems can be used to minimize spills and fugitive emission losses such as dust or mist. Vacuum transfer systems can minimize waste loss.
6. Keep the waste management area clean at all times by sweeping and cleaning up spills immediately.
7. Use dry methods when possible (e.g., sweeping, use of absorbents) when cleaning around restaurant/food handling dumpster areas. If water must be used after sweeping/using absorbents, collect water and discharge through grease interceptor to the sewer.
8. Stencil or demarcate storm drains on the facility's property with prohibitive message regarding waste disposal.
9. Cover waste piles with temporary covering material such as reinforced tarpaulin, polyethylene, polyurethane, polypropylene or hypalon.
10. If possible, move the activity indoor after ensuring all safety concerns such as fire hazard and ventilation are addressed.

### **Preventative Maintenance**

1. Prevent stormwater run-on from entering the waste management area by enclosing the area or building a berm around the area.
2. Prevent waste materials from directly contacting rain.
3. Cover waste piles with temporary covering material such as reinforced tarpaulin, polyethylene, polyurethane, polypropylene or hypalon.
4. Cover the area with a permanent roof if feasible.
5. Cover dumpsters to prevent rain from washing waste out of holes or cracks in the bottom of the dumpster.
6. Check waste containers weekly for leaks and to ensure that lids are on tightly. Replace any that are leaking, corroded, or otherwise deteriorating.
7. Sweep and clean the waste management area regularly. Use dry methods when possible (e.g., sweeping, vacuuming, use of absorbents) when cleaning around restaurant/food handling dumpster areas. If water must be used after sweeping/using absorbents, collect water and discharge through grease interceptor to the sewer.
8. Inspect and replace faulty pumps or hoses regularly to minimize the potential of releases and spills.
9. Repair leaking equipment including valves, lines, seals, or pumps promptly.

### **Spill Response and Prevention Procedures**

1. Keep your spill prevention and plan up-to-date.
2. Have an emergency plan, equipment and trained personnel ready at all times to deal immediately with major spills.
3. Collect all spilled liquids and properly dispose of them.
4. Store and maintain appropriate spill cleanup materials in a location known to all near the designated wash area.

5. Ensure that vehicles transporting waste have spill prevention equipment that can prevent spills during transport. Spill prevention equipment includes:
  - a. Vehicles equipped with baffles for liquid waste; and
  - b. Trucks with sealed gates and spill guards for solid waste.

## **Material Handling and Waste Management**

### **Litter Control**

1. Post “No Littering” signs and enforce anti-litter laws.
2. Provide a sufficient number of litter receptacles for the facility.
3. Clean out and cover litter receptacles frequently to prevent spillage.

### **Waste Collection**

1. Keep waste collection areas clean.
2. Inspect solid waste containers for structural damage regularly. Repair or replace damaged containers as necessary.
3. Secure solid waste containers; containers must be closed tightly when not in use.
4. Do not fill waste containers with washout water or any other liquid.
5. Ensure that only appropriate solid wastes are added to the solid waste container. Certain wastes such as hazardous wastes, appliances, fluorescent lamps, pesticides, etc., may not be disposed of in solid waste containers (see chemical/ hazardous waste collection section below).
6. Do not mix wastes; this can cause chemical reactions, make recycling impossible, and complicate disposal. Affix labels to all waste containers.

### **Chemical/Hazardous Wastes**

1. Select designated hazardous waste collection areas on-site.
2. Store hazardous materials and wastes in covered containers and protect them from vandalism.
3. Place hazardous waste containers in secondary containment.
4. Make sure that hazardous waste is collected, removed, and disposed of only at authorized disposal areas.
5. Hazardous waste cannot be reused or recycled; it must be disposed of by a licensed hazardous waste hauler.

### **Employee Training Program**

1. Educate employees about pollution prevention measures and goals.
2. Train employees how to properly handle and dispose of waste using the source control BMPs described above.
3. Train employees and subcontractors in proper hazardous waste management.
4. Use a training log or similar method to document training.

5. Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.

### **Quality Assurance and Record Keeping**

1. Keep accurate maintenance logs that document minimum BMP activities performed for waste handling and disposal, types and quantities of waste disposed of, and any improvement actions.
2. Keep accurate logs of spill response actions that document what was spilled, how it was cleaned up, and how the waste was disposed.
3. Establish procedures to complete logs and file them in the central office.

### **Potential Capital Facility Costs and Operation & Maintenance Requirements Facilities**

1. Capital costs will vary substantially depending on the size of the facility and the types of waste handled. Significant capital costs may be associated with reducing wastes by modifying processes or implementing closed-loop recycling.
2. Many facilities will already have indoor covered areas where waste materials will be stored and will require no additional capital expenditures for providing cover.
3. If outdoor storage of wastes is required, construction of berms or other means to prevent stormwater run-on and runoff may require appropriate constructed systems for containment.
4. Capital investments will likely be required at some sites if adequate cover and containment facilities do not exist and can vary significantly depending upon site conditions.

### **Maintenance**

1. Check waste containers weekly for leaks and to ensure that lids are on tightly. Replace any that are leaking, corroded, or otherwise deteriorating.
2. Sweep and clean the waste management area regularly. Use dry methods when possible (e.g., sweeping, use of absorbents) when cleaning around restaurant/food handling dumpster areas. If water must be used after sweeping/using absorbents, collect water and discharge through grease interceptor to the sewer.
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