

This pamphlet is for contractors and others who work on Caltrans construction sites. Its goal is to educate and encourage us to prevent water pollution. Water pollution prevention is a good thing to do and it's part of your contract.



For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write or call:

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Water Pollution Prevention INFORMATION SOURCES

OPERATIONAL FACT SHEETS

- ◆ Trenching Operations
- ◆ Bridge Construction
- ◆ Clearing and Grubbing
- ◆ Highway Planting and Landscaping
- ◆ Mobilization
- ◆ Piling
- ◆ Roadway Construction
- ◆ PCC and AC
- ◆ Vehicle and Equipment Fueling

STORM WATER QUALITY HANDBOOKS

- ◆ Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual
- ◆ SWPPP and WPCP Preparation Manual

OTHER MANUALS

- ◆ Guidance for Temporary Soil Stabilization
- ◆ BMP Field Manual and Troubleshooting Guide



For more information please visit our website:
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/manuals.htm



Water Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

Trenching Operations

Keep our Waterways CLEAN



TRENCHING OPERATIONS

Trenching operations on Caltrans construction sites can be as simple as digging down a few inches to install irrigation systems or as complex as installing elaborate drainage systems or jacking underground utilities.

Regardless of the extent of excavation, the trenching operations involve soil disturbing activities and the use of various types of construction equipment and materials.

The following procedures and practices are intended to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants into storm drain systems or watercourses as a result of trenching operations.

KEEP STREETS CLEAN

- ✓ Make sure vehicles and equipment leaving the site don't track dirt, mud or tack/seal coat onto public streets or private roads.
- ✓ Stabilize all equipment and vehicle entrances/exits with aggregate over filter fabric.
- ✓ Use a street sweeper to clean visible tracking, loose material, sand and gravel from paved roads. Do not wash streets.

ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN

- ✓ Don't let storm water runoff carry soil or other pollutants into watercourses, drainage courses or storm drain inlets.
- ✓ Use silt fence, fiber rolls, gravel bags or other sediment control barriers to prevent soil and trash from getting into storm drain systems or watercourses.
- ✓ At a minimum, all bare soil must be protected from the erosive effects of storm water before it rains.
- ✓ Use soil stabilization BMPs, such as mulch, soil binders, plastic sheeting, or erosion control blankets to protect the bare soil.
- ✓ If stock/spoil piles are active, they must be protected prior to rain by covering, stabilizing or being contained inside a sediment control barrier like silt fence or fiber roll.
- ✓ Collect construction waste, site trash and litter in dumpsters.
- ✓ Use barriers such as silt fence, gravel bags or fiber rolls to divert storm water from coming in contact with stored solid waste, stock piles and construction materials.

SOIL CONTAMINATION

- ✓ If you detect spills or leaks during trenching or see evidence of discoloration, odors or differences in soil properties, let your foreman know.
- ✓ Delineate the area and protect it from further contamination.
- ✓ Install a berm around the stockpile to protect against run-on, and cover the soil with plastic sheeting.
- ✓ The suspected soil may need to be tested and disposed of properly.
- ✓ Avoid temporary stockpiling of contaminated soil and hazardous materials when possible.

ARE YOU DEWATERING ?

- ✓ If you need to remove water from an excavation, check with your foreman or resident engineer first. You may need a permit.
- ✓ You must use approved BMPs to treat the discharge.
- ✓ You may also need to sample the discharge for pollutants.
- ✓ Avoid dewatering discharges where possible by using the water for dust control, infiltration, etc.

KEEP THE JOBSITE CLEAN AND ORDERLY

- ✓ Pick up your trash. Put trash in a trash can or dumpster.
- ✓ Pitch in. Remind co-workers to throw away their trash when break time is over.
- ✓ Littering is prohibited.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your foreman.