Water Pollution Prevention
It's Up to Us!

Riverbank has two drainage systems, the sewer and the ***storm drains***. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets and out to our rivers or waterways.

Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to our rivers, and eventually the ocean.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent river pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to our rivers through the storm drain system – gutters, inlets, retention basins, pipelines, pumping facilities -- that take water and debris straight from Riverbank streets to our rivers and waterways. Each day, polluted urban runoff enters our rivers untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash to be carried downstream.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates our rivers, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner rivers and a cleaner city.

www.riverbank.org

For more information about Storm Drain Protection call:

(209) 863-7127
Development Services Department
City of Riverbank

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste
(209) 525-6700
http://www.stancounty.com/er/hazmat/household-hazardous-waste.shtm

To Report a Clogged Storm Drain or a Spill

City of Riverbank
Public Works Dept. (209) 869-7128
Development Service Dept. (209) 863-7127

Reporting of Illegal Dumping

City of Riverbank Neighborhood Improvement Complaint Line
(209) 863-7190

Stormwater

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

General Construction & Site Supervision

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

General Contractors

Construction Inspectors

Home Builders

Developers

Masons & Bricklayers

Patio Construction Workers

Sidewalk Construction Crews

Development Services Department

General Construction Problems

Construction sites are common sources of urban runoff pollution. Materials and wastes blown or washed into a street, gutter or storm drain flow directly to the ocean. Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it enters the ocean.

Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases ocean water temperature, all of which both fish and people depend on.

Sediment also carries with it other work site pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, cement wash, asphalt and car fluids like motor oil, grease and fuel. Thus, poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel and oil on the construction site also contribute to ocean pollution.

As a contractor, site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, you may be held responsible for the environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.

Solutions

Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system.

General Business Practices:

- **Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces.** Place trash cans and recycling receptacles around the site.
- **Cover and maintain dumpsters**. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under a roof or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting. **Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on-site!**
- **Keep materials out of the rain**. Cover exposed piles of soil or construction materials with plastic sheeting or temporary roofs.

- **Designate one area for auto parking**, vehicle refueling and routine equipment maintenance. The designated area should be well away from gutters or drains. Make all major repairs off-site.
- **Make sure portable toilets are in good working order.** Check frequently for leaks.
- **Use as little water as possible** for dust control.

Cleaning Up:

1. **Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately**. This will prevent contaminated soil or residue on paved surfaces.
2. **Never hose down "dirty" pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled.** Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.

Advanced Planning to Prevent Pollution:

An erosion control program, worked out before construction begins, prevents or minimizes most erosion and sedimentation problems.

- **Train your employees and subcontractors.** Make these pamphlets available to everyone working on site. Inform subcontractors about their own responsibilities.
- **Schedule excavation and grading activities** for dry weather periods.
- **Control surface runoff to reduce erosion,** especially during excavation. Use drainage ditches to divert water flow.
- **Prevent erosion by planting** fast –growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.
- **Do not remove trees or shrubs unnecessarily. They help decrease erosion.**

Handling Materials & Wastes:

- Practice Source Reduction- minimize waste when ordering materials. Order only the amounts needed to complete the job.
- Use recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Never bury waste materials or leave them in the street.
- Dispose of all waste properly.

Many construction materials, including solvents, water- based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation can be recycled. Non-recyclable materials must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste. For disposal information, call the numbers listed in this pamphlet.

Disposal Options:

Use a crushing company to recycle cement, asphalt and porcelain rather than taking them to a landfill.