

III

STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

BMP ACTIVITY SHEETS

This chapter consists of a series of information sheets listing the best management practices (BMPs) required for commercial, industrial, agricultural, public, and multifamily residential activities conducted in unincorporated King County.

The manual limits the requirements to a number of minimal measures that reasonably balance stormwater pollution reduction with feasibility and cost. The manual also includes recommended BMPs that should always be considered in the effort to control pollution. King County's goal is to reduce pollution through education and prevention efforts, emphasizing source control BMPs before treatment.

Every property in the county has unique characteristics and drainage systems. Some sites have a constructed storm drainage system with catch basin inlets, while others drain to a ditch or infiltrate into the ground. The type of drainage system as well as the slope and ground cover of a site will affect the selection of BMPs. The activity sheets offer flexibility in BMP selection and, as much as possible, recognize the wide variety of site conditions that may be encountered.

Please note that you are responsible for your own activities as well as those activities and services rendered by a contractor you hire. Before hiring a contractor, ensure that they follow best management practices and comply with all federal, state, and local laws.

OPTIONAL BMPs

The BMPs listed below are measures that should be considered at all times for improving pollution control. These BMPs are NOT REQUIRED, but should be incorporated in your plan of implementing BMPs. Implementation of some of these BMPs may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more complicated or costly BMPs discussed later in the activity sheets.

1

Locate Activities as Far as Possible From Surface Drainage Paths

Locating activities on high ground, far from drainage paths, ditches, gutters, and storm drains allows more time to recognize spills and act to prevent water contamination.

2

Avoid the Activity or Reduce its Occurrence

Often an alternate production process or material application process can be used to substitute for another, more polluting process. Ideally, a polluting activity can be avoided altogether, or its frequency of occurrence reduced. An example is washing vehicles less often or taking vehicles to commercial car washes or detail shops rather than washing on site.

3

Use Less Material

Improper disposal of excess material or increased application of materials simply because excess is available can cause pollution. Purchase only the amount of material that will be needed for foreseeable use. In most cases you will see cost savings in both purchasing and disposal.

4

Use the Least Toxic Materials Available

All applications of solid and liquid materials should use the least toxic products and raw materials available, whether in production; cleaning; pesticide applications; or other uses. The Seattle-King County Department of Public Health's Business Waste Line should be consulted for information on using less toxic products.

5

Create and/or Maintain Vegetated Areas Near Activity Locations

Grass and other types of vegetation can filter out many pollutants in stormwater runoff. Vegetated areas should be maintained around areas where polluting activities occur, especially down slope of activity areas. Routine maintenance will keep vegetated areas healthy and capable of filtering pollutants. (If using installed irrigation systems see K.C.C. 21A.16).

6

Recycle as Much as Possible

Recycling is always preferable to disposal of unwanted materials. Leftover paints, finishes, cleaning materials, building materials, etc. may be used by someone else, so don't throw them away. Contact a neighbor, friend, school, church, community group, theater group, etc. to see if your leftover materials can be used. Many empty containers and other common items are recyclable. Contact the King County Solid Waste Division's Business Recycling Program and the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health's Industrial Materials Exchange for recycling options.

7

Educate Others About Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Educate your employees, business associates, contractors, family, and friends about stormwater pollution control. Encourage others to find solutions to stormwater pollution problems, and to continue learning about pollution control techniques.

8

Implement Treatment BMPs

Treatment BMPs are used to remove pollutants from stormwater before being discharged from a site. These include oil water separators and other catch basin inserts that control pollutants in the piped system and as well as numerous biological systems such as biofiltration swales, infiltration, and constructed wetlands. These BMPs may be a preferred option in certain circumstances. A number of treatment BMPs are described in Chapter V.