



## 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.
- **Recycle** broken asphalt, concrete, wood and cleared vegetation. Non-recyclable materials must be taken to appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste. For disposal information, call the numbers listed in this pamphlet.

### Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

City of Modesto  
Solid Waste Management  
(209) 577-5494

Stanislaus County  
Household Hazardous Waste Facility  
(209) 525-4123

### To Report a Spill or Illegal Dumping

City of Modesto  
Water Quality Control Division  
(209) 577-6200

### To Report a Clogged Storm Drain

City of Modesto  
Water Quality Control Division  
(209) 577-6200

*This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:*

**Automotive Maintenance & Car Care**

**Equipment Rentals**

**Food Service Industry**

**Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application**

**General Construction & Site Supervision**

**Heavy Equipment & Earthmoving Activities**

**Home Repair & Remodeling**

**Horse Owners & Equine Industry**

**Kennels**

**Landscaping, Gardening, Pest Control**

**Mobile Washers & Cleaners**

**Nurseries**

**Painting**

**Roadwork and Paving**

**Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi & Fountain Maintenance**

For more information about storm drain protection or additional pamphlets, call:



[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)  
City of Modesto  
Public Works Department  
Environmental Compliance Section  
(209) 577-6377

## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)



## Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

**Construction Inspectors**

**Developers**

**Do-it-Yourselfers**

**Home Builders**

**Masons and Bricklayers**

**Patio Construction Workers**

**Sidewalk Construction Crews**



**Environmental Compliance Section  
Public Works Department**

## Water Pollution Prevention It's Up to Us!



Modesto has two drainage systems—the sewers 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 by way of catch basins or drainage into our rockwell system.

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

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 – 77 miles of storm lines and over 10,000 rockwells -- that take water and debris straight from Modesto 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.



## Concrete & Mortar Application Problems:

**Fresh concrete and mortar activities are frequent sources of urban runoff pollution. Materials and wastes blown or washed into a street, gutter or storm drain have a direct impact on 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 harm sea life, disrupting the food chain upon which both fish and people depend. Sediment also carries with it other work site pollutants such as cement wash, gravel, asphalt, pesticides, cleaning solvents, motor oil, grease and fuel. Thus, poorly maintained equipment and vehicles leaking fuel and oil.

### 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

- Schedule projects for dry weather periods.
- Keep materials out of the rain. Store both dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff. Also, protect dry materials from wind.
- Secure open bags of cement to keep wind-blown cement powder away from streets, gutters, storm drains, rainfall and runoff.



### Cleaning Up

- When cleaning up after driveway or sidewalk construction, wash concrete dust onto dirt areas, not down the driveway or into the street or storm drain.
- Wash out concrete mixers and equipment only in designated wash-out areas, where the water flows into containment ponds or onto dirt.
- Recycle cement wash water by pumping it back into cement mixers for reuse.
- Never dispose of cement washout into driveways streets, gutters, storm drains or drainage ditches.



### During Construction

- Place erosion controls (i.e. berms or temporary vegetation) down slope to capture runoff carrying mortar or cement to keep it on site.
- Do not order or mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy drop cloths.
- When breaking up paving (cement or asphalt), be sure to pick up all the pieces. Recycle them at a crushing company. Use the referral numbers listed in this pamphlet.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout and mortar in the trash.
- Never bury waste material. Recycle or dispose of it as hazardous waste material. For disposal information contact the:

**Hazardous Waste Diversion Facility  
1716 Morgan Road/North Gate  
Modesto/Ceres  
525-4123**