

September 1999



Alameda Countywide
Clean Water Program
A Consortium of Local Agencies

Parking Lots

In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in Alameda County have joined to form the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP).

The ACCWP consists of the Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Alameda County, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Zone 7 of the District.

The Goal of the ACCWP is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks and the San Francisco Bay). The ACCWP encourages using Best Management Practices to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections.

The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, and the San Francisco Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, wastewater discharged to the storm drains is illegal.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, municipalities participating in the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP) have instituted a business education campaign and inspection program. Inspectors work with contractors and businesses to identify and control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible for their contractors' practices.*



Storm water runoff from parking lots can contribute significantly to urban runoff pollution. Automotive fluids, food wastes, grease, pesticides, litter, and landscape wastes are only some of the pollutants that get into the storm drain system.

Owners and operators of parking lots can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Some such practices are identified on the reverse side of this page.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention contact your local program representatives at **1-888-BAY-WISE**.

Best Management Practices

Follow these BMPs to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into the storm drains. The goal is "only rain in the storm drain."

- Sweep parking lots frequently: at least weekly, daily is preferable. Small areas can be swept with a broom, whereas larger areas may need a vacuum truck or mechanical sweeper. Dispose of sweepings properly.
- Post signs to control litter and prevent patrons from working with automobile fluids in your parking lot (changing oil, adding transmission fluid, etc.). You could be liable for their mess on your property!
- Use absorbent material to clean up automotive fluids on the parking lot. Dispose of absorbent properly.*
- Pick up litter daily; dispose of debris in the garbage.
- Keep dumpster areas free of litter and lids closed.
- Washwater from all cleaning operations must be discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- If cleaning with water and detergent is needed, use a mobile washing unit that is self-contained; **do not** allow the washwater (whether or not it is soapy) to discharge to the storm drain system.
- If using a self-contained mobile cleaner is not feasible, collect the washwater and dispose in indoor sinks or drains for discharge to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local wastewater treatment agency for approval.
- Stencil storm drain inlets with "No Dumping, Drains to Bay" message.



*Hazardous Materials must comply with hazardous materials storage and disposal requirements.

REFERENCES: ACURCWP Best Management Practices for Industrial Storm Water Pollution Control booklet