#E11

city of edmonds
development information

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

The way you conduct business at your shops and worksites can affect not only your health but the health of our local water resources. That's why everyone needs to know and implement best management practices.

I) **Preserve Vegetation/Cover Soils.** A) Preserve as much native vegetation as possible. Be sure to observe clearing and grading limits, and comply with all city vegetation preservation and stream/wetland setback requirements. Time the clearing so it occurs no sooner than necessary for subsequent construction activities. B) Provide temporary vegetation/cover as needed. Examples of this include: temporary seeding/ hydroseeding; mulch, such as hay straw, or wood fiber; mats/blankets, such as jute mat excelsior; woven straw blanket; or netting; plastic sheeting with anchors. C) Provide permanent vegetation cover as soon as earthwork is complete (seeding or hydroseeding or sodding.

II) **Control Runoff During Construction:** Reduce runoff velocities. Techniques include: vegetating exposed soils and ditches; riprap; check dams including straw bales, rocks, pea gravel bags, and sand bags; terracing or contouring the site; and filter fabric fencing.

III) **Install and Maintain Sediment Controls.** A) Install sediment controls such as: 1) lower cost (non-engineered), filter fabric fence, check dams, rock berms, sediment traps, and catch basins and drain filters. 2) moderate cost (engineered), intercepting ditches, cut-off trenches, level spreader, and gradient terracing/contouring. 3) Higher cost (engineered), siltation/sedimentation pond, grass-lined swale or constructed wetland. B) Maintain sediment controls by frequent inspection of control facilities to make sure they are working properly (trapping sediment on-site, with water leaving site clear), and removing collected sediment as needed from sediment traps.

IV) **Keep Fresh Concrete Mortar out of Storm Drains and Streams.** A) Use designated wash-out areas. B) Take care when building concrete aggregate driveways making sure to wash out the fines to the side, not down the driveway. If the driveway is sloped, place straw bales at the bottom or divert flow to a safe sediment basin. C) Never wash fresh concrete mortar into the storm drain or a stream.

V) **Keep Business and Work Areas Clean and Maintain Catch Basins.** Examples include: picking up litter, sweeping surfaces which drain to storm drain, using a tarp to cover the ground when sanding to catch chips, cleaning up all wastes at the work site, maintaining construction equipment to fix any oil leaks, installing and maintaining an oil/water separator, covering all stock piled materials, and cleaning catch basins.

VI) **Cover Containers and Materials.** A) Cover all potentially polluting materials such as dumpsters, waste container drums, tanks, boxes, chemicals, paints. solvents, stockpiles of lumber, other building material, metal products, top soil, and landscaping materials. B) Cover adequately by developing good storage areas that keep materials covered so pollutants can't wash away during rain or snow.

VII) **Prepare For and Clean Up Spills.** A) There are three overall practices to minimize pollution from spills: 1) Handle materials carefully to avoid spills and leaks, 2) Prepare a clean up plan, and 3) Immediately clean up any spills. When preparing a clean up plan make sure to: a) Establish who to notify in the event of a spill, b) Provide specific clean up instructions, c) Assign a person to be in charge of clean up, and d) Prepare spill containment and clean up kits which are easy to reach and use. Remember to clean up spills immediately, and observe clean

up plans and safety requirements. If there isn't a plan, take the following steps: 1) Stop or isolate the source of the spill, 2) If there's a chance the spill could enter the storm drain or sewer, close drain inlet and divert any incoming water. 3) Cover the spill with absorbent material(s) that can be easily swept or picked up such as kitty litter, sawdust, or vermiculite (make sure that materials used for hazardous waste clean up are treated as hazardous waste for disposal), and 4) Report spills to City of Edmonds Engineering Division, Hydraulics Engineer at 425-771-0220: or for large spills, contact Department of Ecology at 425-649-7000.

VIII) **Dispose of Wastes Properly.** Proper waste disposal depends on both the properties and the amount of the waste. To dispose of waste:1) Identify if it is hazardous, 2) Estimate the amount in pounds, 3) Determine the disposal method, and 4) If necessary, contact a hazardous waste service. This is a very broad subject and if you have any questions about waste disposal contact the City of Edmonds Recycling Coordinator at 425-771-0235; or the Snohomish County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Station at 425-388-6050.

IX) **Minimize Waste.** Wastes can be minimized through good housekeeping, separating different wastes, substituting non-hazardous materials in the place of hazardous ones, and maintaining products and construction equipment. Reducing wastes reduces potential sources of pollutants to the drainage system and also preserves natural resources. The following are a few ideas: 1) Use solvents more than once, 2) Buy the least toxic products available, 3) Buy only what you need and use only what is needed, 4) Purchase products that last longer (better quality), and 5) See if others can use your waste (use the services of the Industrial Materials Exchange 206-296-4899), for more information contact the City of Edmonds Recycling Coordinator at 425-771-0235.

X) **Recycle Unwanted Materials.** Unwanted materials produced at Construction sites can often be recycled, at less cost than conventional disposal methods. The City has recycling guides available regarding construction, demolition, and land clearing (CDL) activities. The recycling guide lists sites that accept CDL materials, and outlines how to se-up worksite recycling. Other ways to make recycling work are: 1) Purchase recycled products, 2) Separate wastes, 3) Avoid phenol, 4) Keep receipts, and 5) Recycle what you can.

XI) **Preserve/Enhance Streams, Wetlands, and Adjacent Vegetation.** Protect streams and wetlands, remember, stream and wetland protection is required by City of Edmonds Codes. Contact City of Edmonds, Planning Division at 425-771-0220 for more information.

XII) **Educate Employees and Customers.** Participate in workshops, courses, and knowledge transfer. Conduct annual water quality training sessions for all employees. Include water quality training in new-employee orientations and in written procedures. Make sure customers are aware of BMPs, and explain BMPs to peer businesses. Remember, water quality is the responsibility of everyone.

Many of the BMPs discussed in this brochure are described in more detail in the Washington Department of Ecology Storm Water Management Manual for the Puget Sound Basin.

Not sure if a particular substance is hazardous? Uncertain of how to dispose of something? Call the City of Edmonds Recycling Coordinator at 425-771-0235 between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. If it is after business Hours, place the substance in a sealed container, label it and store it in a safe place where no one can touch it. Call the Recycling Coordinator the next business day to help get you the information you need.

For more information on what should and should not go into the wastewater systems call the Edmonds Wastewater Treatment Plant at 425-771-0237. To learn more about proper hazardous waste disposal, call Snohomish County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Station at 425-388-6050.