



## Erosion Prevention



After clearing, grading or excavating, exposed soil poses a clear and immediate danger of stormwater pollution.

Re-vegetation (permanent or temporary) is an excellent form of erosion control for any site.

- Avoid excavation and grading activities during wet weather.
- Construct diversion dikes to channel runoff around the site. Line channels with grass or roughened pavement to reduce runoff velocity.
- Cover stockpiles and excavated soil with secured tarps or plastic sheeting.
- Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary. Large projects should be conducted in phases.
- Consider planting temporary vegetation for erosion control on slopes or where construction is not immediately planned.
- Plant permanent vegetation as soon as possible, once excavation and grading activities are complete.

## 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 Clogged Storm Drain or Illegal Dumping

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 & Paving

Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi &  
Fountain Maintenance



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

[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

(209) 577-6377  
Environmental Compliance Section  
Public Works Department  
City of Modesto

## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs):



## Heavy Equipment & Earthmoving Activities

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

## Bulldozer, Backhoe & Gardening Machine Operators

Developers

Dump Truck Drivers

General Contractors

Home Builders

Site Supervisors



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.

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 – 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.

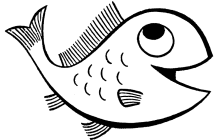
Urban runoff pollution contaminates our rivers, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

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



### Heavy Equipment Operation Problems

Soil excavation and grading operations often contribute to urban runoff pollution. By loosening large amounts of soil and sediment, earthmoving activities can cause sediment to flow into gutters, storm drains and our rivers.



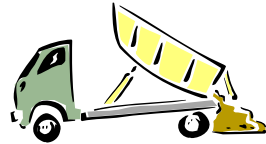
Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it enters the our rivers.

Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases a river's water temperature, all of which harm aquatic life, disturbing the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.

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 at the construction site also contribute to river pollution.

### Solutions:

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



1

### General Business Practices:

- Schedule excavation and grading work for dry weather.
- Use as little water as possible for dust control.



2

### Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance:

- Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment.
- **Inspect frequently for leaks.**
- Conduct all vehicle/equipment maintenance and refueling at one location - away from storm drains.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs and vehicle/equipment washing off-site.
- Use gravel approaches where truck traffic is frequent to reduce soil compaction and limit the tracking of sediment into streets.
- Use drip pans or drop cloths to catch drips and spills.
- Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment or parts.

3

### Cleaning Up:

- Sweep up dry spilled materials immediately. Never attempt to bury them or "wash them away" with water.
- Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.
- Report significant spills to the appropriate spill response agencies immediately.
- Clean up leaks, drips, and other spills immediately.
- Never hose down "dirty" pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled.

4

### Employee & Client Education:

**Educate your employees.** Include water quality training in new employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions.



**Educate your customers.** Raise awareness by stenciling storm drains near the work place with the City's stencil:

**REPORT POLLUTERS**

**CALL 577-6200**