



City of Long Beach
Department of Development Services
Building and Safety Bureau

Erosion Control Best Management Practices

Information
Bulletin

BU-039

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Long Beach 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 out to the ocean. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to the ocean. This Information Bulletin will describe how to prevent ocean pollution from “stormwater” or “urban runoff.”

Best management practices, such as handling, storing and disposing of materials properly prevents construction site pollutants from entering the storm drains.

GENERAL BUSINESS PRACTICES

ESCI SCHEDULING

Purpose: To reduce the discharge of pollutants from construction sites by sequencing the construction project to reduce the amount and duration of soil exposure.

- Schedule major grading operations during dry months.
- Practice erosion and sediment control year round.
- Schedule project to disturb only small portions of the site at any one time.
- Close and stabilize open trenches as soon as possible.

ESC21 DUST CONTROL

Purpose: To reduce the discharge of pollutants from construction sites by using dust control measures to stabilize soil from wind erosion, and reduce dust generated by construction activities.

- Stabilize exposed soils by using vegetation, watering/sprinkling, and stone gravel layering.
- Identify and stabilize primary access to site.
- Direct traffic to stabilized areas within the project.
- Street sweeping of adjacent public right-of-way.

ESC24 STABILIZED CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE

Purpose: To reduce the discharge of pollutants from construction sites by reducing the amount of sediment, dust, and mud tracked off-site from construction traffic.

- Stabilize construction entrance with aggregate underlain with filter cloth.
- Construct on level ground where possible.
- Provide ample turning radius as part of entrance.
- Length should be 50-foot minimum, and width 30-foot minimum.

ESC50 SILT FENCE

Purpose: To reduce the discharge of pollutants from construction sites utilizing a silt fence that detains sediment-laden water, promoting sedimentation behind the fence.

- Use in areas where sheet flow occurs.
- Turn ends of fence uphill.
- Select filter fabric that retains 85% of soil.
- Silt fence, which is made of filter fabric, should be entrenched and attached to supporting poles.

ESC52 SAND BAG BARRIER

Purpose: To reduce the discharge of pollutants from construction sites by stacking sand bags along a level contour creating a barrier that detains sediment-laden water promoting sedimentation. Use along the perimeter of the site and around catch basin inlets to storm drains to create a temporary sediment trap.

- Use sand bags large enough to withstand flooding.
- Inspect sand bags after each rain.
- Remove sediment behind sand bags.
- Reshape or replace damaged sand bags.

ESC56 SEDIMENT BASIN

Purpose: To discharge the pollutants from construction sites by retaining runoff sufficiently to allow excessive sediment to settle.

- Should be located where failure of embankment would not cause life/property damage.
- Inspect weekly and after each rain.
- Remove sediments by using filters if necessary when basin is half-full.
- Line basin if ground water is within 10 feet of bottom.