
STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION SITE POLLUTION PREVENTION



Definition: Practices implemented to reduce the potential for stormwater runoff to transport construction site wastes that may contaminate surface or ground water.

Purpose: To prevent the generation of nonpoint source pollution from construction sites through effective handling, storage and disposal of building materials and other construction site wastes. To prevent hazardous wastes from contaminating surface and ground water, remediate spills, and dispose of contaminated substances/materials properly.

Planning Considerations:

Many potential pollutants other than sediment are associated with construction activities. These include pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and rodenticides); fertilizers used for the establishment of vegetation; petrochemicals (oils, fuels and asphalt degreasers); construction chemicals (concrete products, sealers, and paints); wash water associated with these products; paper; wood; garbage and sanitary wastes. Targeting potential spill areas, minimizing exposure to rainfall, and lengthening flow paths to receiving waters are essential when developing a construction site pollution prevention plan.

The variety of pollutants present, spill potential, and the severity of their effects are dependent on a number of factors:

1. **The nature of the construction activity.** The type of work being performed influences the kinds and amounts of pollutants generated. For instance, fertilizer-related pollution may be greater along highways or within housing developments than at shopping centers due to more extensive landscaping requirements. Large construction sites also often store fuel on-site for refueling equipment, increasing the risk of spills.
2. **The physical characteristics of the construction site.** Most pollutants from construction sites reach surface waters through stormwater runoff. Factors such as rainfall amount, intensity, and frequency; soil infiltration rates; surface roughness; slope length and steepness; and the total disturbed area all affect the volume and pollutant load of runoff.
3. **The proximity of surface waters to the nonpoint pollutant source.** The closer pollutant-generating activities are to streams, ponds, or other surface waters, the greater the likelihood of water quality impacts.
4. **The management of construction site wastes.** Properly separating wastes, using appropriately

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sized and covered containers for each waste type, and providing clear signage identifying allowed materials will significantly reduce the risk of polluted runoff from construction sites.

Practices

The practices set forth below have been found by EPA to be representative of the types of practices that can be applied successfully to achieve the management measure described above. On all construction sites, an individual should be designated to oversee and enforce waste management procedures and spill prevention practices.

Effective pollution prevention measures are to be designed, installed, implemented, and maintained in accordance with the standard and specifications for Construction Site Pollution Prevention in the Delaware ESC Handbook to minimize the discharge of pollutants in stormwater and to prevent the discharge of pollutants from spilled or leaked materials from construction activities. At a minimum, such measures must:

- a. Minimize the discharge of pollutants from equipment and vehicle washing, wheel wash water, and other wash waters. Wash waters must be discharged to a sediment basin or alternative control that provides equivalent or better treatment prior to discharge;
- b. Minimize the exposure of building materials, building products, construction wastes, trash, landscape materials, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, detergents, sanitary waste, and other materials present on the site to precipitation and stormwater; and
- c. Minimize the discharge of pollutants from spills and leaks and implement chemical spill and leak prevention and response procedures.

Best management practices for construction site pollution prevention shall be a part of regular progress meetings and information regarding waste management, equipment maintenance, and spill prevention shall be prominently posted in the construction trailer.

For equipment and vehicle fueling and maintenance:

- a. Provide an effective means of minimizing the discharge of spilled or leaked chemicals, including fuels and oils. Examples include:
 - i. Fueling only in signed designated areas a minimum of 50 feet away from drains and water courses. Using nozzles equipped with automatic shut-off to control drips and do not top off tanks. If fueling at night, the area is to be sufficiently illuminated.
 - ii. Protecting the areas where equipment and vehicles are being repaired, maintained, and fueled or parked, using barriers such as berms to prevent stormwater run-on and runoff and to contain spills. Drip pans shall be used for all equipment maintenance.
 - iii. Taking equipment and vehicles to off-site commercial facilities for maintenance.
 - iv. Inspecting vehicles and equipment for leaks daily. Repair fluid and oil leaks immediately or remove from site, cleaning up spills and contaminated areas immediately. Do not hose down spills.
- b. Absorbent spill clean-up materials and spill kits must be available on site, particularly in fueling areas and equipment storage areas.
- c. Dispose of or recycle used oil, fluids, lubricants, and spill clean-up materials. All used products such as oil, antifreeze, solvents and tires shall be disposed of in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

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For equipment and vehicle washing:

- a. Provide an effective means of minimizing the discharge of pollutants from equipment and vehicle washing, wheel wash water, and other types of wash waters including:
 - i. Taking equipment and vehicles to off-site commercial facilities for washing.
 - ii. If performed on-site, washing vehicles with high-pressure water spray without detergents in an area contained by an impervious berm.
 - iii. Disposing of washout from concrete trucks in a designated concrete washout area for hardening and proper disposal.
- b. Ensure there is no discharge of soaps, solvents, or detergents in equipment and vehicle wash water; and
- c. For storage of soaps, detergents, or solvents, provide cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) to minimize the exposure of these detergents to precipitation and to stormwater, or a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants from these areas.

For storage, handling, and disposal of building products, materials, and wastes:

- a. Provide an effective means to minimize the exposure of building materials, building products, construction wastes, and domestic trash to precipitation, stormwater, and wind.
- b. For building materials and building products:
 - i. Provide cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) to minimize the exposure of these products to precipitation and to stormwater, or a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants from these areas.
 - ii. Provide cover (e.g. secured tarpaulin, mesh, or plywood, lidded dumpster) to minimize exposure of these products to wind.
 - iii. Exception: Minimization of exposure is not required in cases where the exposure to precipitation and to stormwater will not result in a discharge of pollutants, or where exposure of a specific material or product poses little risk of stormwater contamination (such as final products and materials intended for outdoor use).
- c. For construction and domestic wastes:
 - i. Provide waste containers (e.g., dumpster, trash receptacle) of sufficient size and number to contain construction and domestic wastes.
 - ii. For waste containers with lids, keep waste container lids closed when not in use, and close lids at the end of the business day and during storm events.
 - iii. For waste containers without lids, provide cover (e.g., a tarp, plastic sheeting, temporary roof) to minimize exposure of wastes to precipitation, or a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants (e.g., secondary containment).
 - iv. Do not dump liquid wastes (e.g. paint, disinfectant, solvents, chemicals). Do not allow liquid wastes to be disposed of through infiltration or otherwise disposed of on the ground. Do not allow liquid wastes to enter constructed or natural site drainage features, storm inlets, or receiving waters.

Examples of construction waste and domestic waste include packing materials, masonry products, pipe and electrical cuttings, plastics, styrofoams, demolition debris, and other trash or discarded materials.

- d. Clean up and dispose of waste in designated waste containers; immediately clean up litter from escaped trash.
- e. Empty dumpsters when at 80% capacity by volume.
- f. Waste containers are not required for the waste remnant or unused portions of construction

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materials or final products that are covered by the exception in Part b.iii above, provided that:

- i. These wastes are stored separately from other construction or domestic wastes; and,
- ii. If the wastes are mixed, they must be stored in waste containers as required in Part b.iii above.

Examples of building materials and building products typically present at construction sites include copper flashing, roofing materials, siding, and gravel.

For diesel fuel, oil, hydraulic fluids, other petroleum products, hazardous materials, other chemicals, and sanitary wastes:

- a. Do not allow oil, grease, fuel, or chemicals to drip onto the ground. Use drip pans and oil absorbent pads to prevent spills.
- b. Have a spill kit available on site in good working order (i.e. not damaged, expired, used up) and ensure personnel are available to respond to a leak or a spill.
- c. Clean up spills immediately. Do not hose down areas to clean surfaces or spills.
- d. Store materials such as fuel, solvents, oil, and chemicals under cover or in secondary containment, at least 50 feet away from receiving water, drainage features, and storm drain inlets.
- e. Containers must be properly labeled, water-tight, and kept closed, sealed, and secured when not actively being used.
- f. Store contaminated waste in sealed containers constructed of suitable material. Label these containers properly.
- g. Dispose of all hazardous or toxic materials in compliance with applicable Delaware laws.
- h. Contact information for reporting spills shall be prominently posted.

Examples of hazardous or toxic materials that may be present at construction sites includes paints, caulks, sealants, solvents, petroleum-based products, wood preservatives, additives, curing compounds, and acids.

For pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers, and landscape materials:

- a. Ensure products are properly labeled and provide cover (e.g. plastic sheeting, temporary roofing) to minimize exposure of these chemicals to precipitation and to stormwater.
- b. Provide a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants (e.g. store fertilizer bags in weather-proof location, or on a pallet and covered in plastic sheeting that is overlapped and anchored).
- c. Application of these materials must be done in compliance with state and federal laws.

Standard Detail & Specifications

Construction Site Pollution Prevention

Delaware NPDES Discharge Permit

General Permit for Discharge of Stormwater from Construction Activities

((Project Name))

((NOI Permit Number))

((Agency Plan Approval ID))

((Contact Name & Number for Additional Site Information))

((Contact Name & Number to Obtain Copy of Approved Plan))

If you observe indicators of stormwater pollutants
in the discharge or in the receiving waterbody, call the
DNREC Spill Notification 24 HR Hotline at

1-800-662-8802

Example Construction General Permit (CGP) Signage

NOTES:

1. Minimum sign size 2' x 2'
2. Minimum text size 1"
3. Sign must be posted at a safe, publicly accessible location close to construction site
4. Sign must be visible from the public road nearest the active construction site
5. Signs posted within a DeIDOT or other public road right-of-way (ROW) must be in accordance with all local and/or State requirements in regards to safety, location, orientation, etc.

Source:

Delaware ESC Handbook

Symbol:

Detail No.

DE-ESC-3.6.1

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Standard Detail & Specifications

Construction Site Pollution Prevention

1) Equipment and Vehicle Fueling and Maintenance

- a. Minimize spills and leaks of fuels and oils.
 - i. Fuel only in marked areas a minimum of 50 feet away from drains and watercourses. Use automatic shut-off nozzles and do not top off tanks. Provide lighting if fueling at night.
 - ii. Use berms or other barriers around fueling, maintenance, and parking areas to prevent stormwater from running through and to contain spills. Use drip pans during maintenance.
 - iii. Take equipment and vehicles to off-site facilities for maintenance when possible.
 - iv. Check vehicles and equipment daily for leaks. Repair immediately or remove from site.
 - v. Clean up any spills right away. Do not hose them down.
- b. Keep absorbent materials and spill kits on site, especially in fueling and storage areas.
- c. Dispose of or recycle used oil, fluids, lubricants, and cleanup materials according to manufacturer instructions and all local, state, and federal regulations.

2) Equipment and Vehicle Washing

- a. Minimize discharge of pollutants from wash water.
 - i. Use off-site commercial wash facilities when possible.
 - ii. If washing on-site, use high-pressure water without detergents in a contained area with an impervious berm.
 - iii. Dispose of concrete washout water only in designated washout areas for hardening and proper disposal.
- b. Do not discharge soaps, solvents, or detergents.
- c. Store soaps, detergents, and solvents under cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) or use another effective method to prevent contact with stormwater.

3) Storage, Handling, and Disposal of Building Products, Materials, and Waste

- a. Minimize exposure of materials, products, and waste to rain, stormwater, and wind.
- b. Building materials and products:
 - i. Cover materials (e.g., plastic sheeting, tarp, or roof) to prevent contact with rain and stormwater. Final building materials and products intended for outdoor use do not require cover.
 - ii. Secure materials (e.g., tarp, mesh, or lidded dumpster) to protect from wind.

Source:

Adapted from USEPA
CGP 2022 (as modified)

Symbol:

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DE-ESC-3.6.1
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Standard Detail & Specifications

Construction Site Pollution Prevention

- c. Construction and domestic waste:
 - i. Provide enough containers (e.g., dumpsters, trash bins) to hold all waste.
 - ii. Keep container lids closed when not in use and during storms.
 - iii. For containers without lids, cover with a tarp or temporary roof to prevent exposure to rain and wind.
 - iv. Do not dump or allow liquid wastes (e.g., paint, solvents, chemicals) to enter the ground, drains, or waterways.
- d. Dispose of waste in designated containers and clean up loose trash immediately.
- e. Empty dumpsters when at 80% capacity by volume.
- f. Waste containers are not required for final building materials and products if stored separately from other construction, domestic or other waste. If mixed, the waste must be managed as construction and domestic waste in Section 3(c).

4) Hazardous Materials, Other Chemicals and Sanitary Waste:

- a. Store hazardous materials and chemicals under cover or in secondary containment, at least 50 feet from drains or waterways.
- b. Keep containers labeled, sealed, watertight, and closed when not in use.
- c. Store contaminated waste in sealed, labeled containers made of suitable material.
- d. Dispose of hazardous materials according to Delaware laws and regulations.
- e. Post spill reporting contact information clearly on site.

5) Pesticides, Herbicides, Fertilizers, and Landscape Material:

- a. Keep all products labeled and covered (e.g., plastic sheeting or temporary roofs) to prevent contact with rain and stormwater.
- b. Provide similarly effective protection methods, such as storing fertilizer in a weatherproof area or on a covered pallet, to minimize polluted run-off.
- c. Apply all products according to state and federal regulations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

DNREC 24-Hour Toll Free Number

800-662-8802

DNREC Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Section

302-739-9403

Source:

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