



## Pollution Solution FACT SHEET 4

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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**O**ahu is home to nearly one million residents. The City and County of Honolulu works in partnership with the construction industry in an ongoing effort to protect our fragile aquatic environment; one our most precious commodities.

When companies set standards to reduce waste, both management and employees become key parts in keeping Oahu an attractive place to live and visit. Environmentally conscious organizations also have strong public images as caring corporate citizens.

### What is polluted runoff?

Polluted runoff is a problem that affects all of us. When it rains, storm water flow from construction sites to the streets, carrying the pollutants it picks up into the storm drains. Storm drains are not connected to wastewater sewer treatment plants. So, flows into the storm drains eventually drains into streams and surrounding coastlines. With more than 20,000 storm drain inlets, and over 670 miles of storm drains to clean and maintain, we need your help.

### What are BMPs?

“Best management practices” or “BMPs” means pollution control measures, applied to nonpoint sources, on-site or off-site, to control erosion and the transport of sediments and other pollutants which have an adverse impact on waters of the state. BMPs may include a schedule of activities, the prohibition of practices, maintenance procedures, treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, or drainage from raw material storage. Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Section 14-12.2

*The City's main priorities are educating residents and businesses on pollution prevention, advising on practical solutions and enforcing rules to ensure compliance.*

### BMPs for Builders and Contractors

**Construction sites, by their very nature, are a large source of sediment, debris and pollutants. When planning and conducting your home improvement project, consider the following best management practices:**

1. Do all construction work in phases. Complete clearing operations one stage at a time to take advantage of existing ground cover that provides a natural filter for sediment and other pollutants. Establish final vegetation and cover with mulch as soon as portions of the site are completed.
2. Keep work areas clean. Clear out waste and litter at the work site daily. Sweep paved surfaces that flow to the storm-drain system. Collect and dispose of sweepings properly.
3. Control runoff during construction and divert it from areas of exposed soil. This can be done with berms, ditches or pipe drainage systems. Reduce runoff velocities with vegetation or check dams.
4. Protect storm drains close to your construction site against runoff with commercial filters or storm drain inlet protection.
5. Collect and dispose of concrete wash water from construction sites promptly and properly. When clearing concrete trucks and vehicles, use off-site facilities or wash in designated and contained areas only.
6. Prepare for and clean up spills with a Spill Response Plan that includes key emergency contacts, cleanup instructions and locations of spill containment and clean up devices.

Educate employees, contractors and subcontractors about BMPs and encourage them to be “good neighbors” by using BMPs to keep our streets, beaches and ocean clean.

## Laws and Ordinances

**B**usinesses and property owners are liable for illegal discharges whether the work is performed in-house or contracted out. Violations of the Clean Water Act can result in fines of up to \$25,000 per violation, per day.

**K**now the law to avoid fines. The Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to implement water pollution control programs. In an effort to comply with the EPA's mandate, the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12.23(a) Environmental Quality Control - Violation states:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii.**
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water runoff associated with industrial activity into any drainage facility which causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit.**
- (c) It shall be unlawful to discharge domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater into any drainage facility or any separate storm sewer system. It also shall be unlawful to discharge commercial cooking oil waste and commercial FOG waste, as defined under Section 14-5A.1, into any drainage facility or any separate storm sewer system.**
- (d) It shall be unlawful to discharge any storm water on any public right-of-way which creates a drainage problem or causes a nuisance. (Sec. 16-6.23, R.O. 1978 (1987 Supp. to 1983 Ed.); Am. Ord. 92-122, 96-34, 02-14)**

## Be A Part Of The Solution

Most industrial facilities have employee training programs. Usually these address such areas as health and safety training and fire protection. Training on storm water management and BMPs can be incorporated into these programs. Employees can be taught through

- 1) posters, employee meetings, courses, and bulletin boards about storm water management, potential contaminant sources, and prevention of contamination in surface water runoff, and
- 2) field training programs that show areas of potential storm water contamination and associated pollutants, followed by a discussion of site-specific BMPs by trained personnel.

The City and County of Honolulu, working under Federal Clean Water Act Guidelines, has a number of public education programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to eliminate or reduce illegal discharge practices. Existing projects such as the storm drain marking, Adopt-A-Stream, Train The Trainer, World Water Monitoring Challenge, and Adopt-A-Block cleanup and monitoring programs, provide opportunities to train an interested and committed neighborhood. To volunteer, call the Environmental Concern Line at 768-3300.

## Type of Pollutants

- Construction debris, uncovered dirt, gravel pile(s)**
- Motor oil, antifreeze/transmission fluids**
- Domestic wash water (detergents, paint, solvents, degreaser, cooking grease)**
- Animal and yard waste, trash**
- Other \_\_\_\_\_**

## Hot Spots

### Trash: Dispose of it with Care

Regular inspections should be conducted to ensure that dumpsters are leak-free and have tight-fitting lids. It is highly recommended that dumpsters and trash compactors are stored in covered locations. Maintenance staff should frequently clean up debris in trash areas with a broom rather than water. Whenever a trash container is cleaned, the water must be disposed of through a grease interceptor to a sewer. Keep liquid wastes out of dumpsters. Runoff due to dumpster leaks can lead to City fines.

### Storage of Chemicals

Store pesticides, fertilizers, paints, solvents and other chemicals in original containers in covered locations. Chemicals must be stored on elevated surfaces - away from contact with the ground.



### Report It

As a resident, you can make a difference, both on the job and in your community. When you're at home, share your knowledge with neighbors and family. As you drive to work, be aware of illegal discharges. If you do see an illegal discharge, report it to the Environmental Concern Line at 768-3300.