



ROADS, STREETS, AND HIGHWAYS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Streets, roads, and highways are significant sources of pollutants in storm water discharges, and operation and maintenance (O&M) practices, if not conducted properly, can contribute to the problem. O&M practices may involve one or more of the following activities:

- 1. Sweeping & Cleaning**
- 2. Street Repair & Maintenance**
- 3. Bridge and Structure Maintenance**

Streets, roads, and highways are significant sources of pollutants in storm water discharges, and operation and maintenance (O&M) practices, if not conducted properly, can contribute to the problem. O&M practices may involve one or more of the following activities:

Pollution prevention measures that should be consider and the minimum required and optional model procedures for each performance standard are provided below.

POLLUTION PREVENTION:

Pollution prevention measures have been considered and incorporated in the model procedures. Implementation of these measures may be more effective and reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more complicated or costly procedures. Possible pollution prevention measure for roads, streets, and highways operation and maintenance include:

- Use the least toxic materials available (e.g. water based paints, gels or sprays for graffiti removal)
- Recycle paint and other materials whenever possible.
- Once per year, educate municipal staff on pollution prevention measures.

MODEL PROCEDURES:

1. Sweeping & Cleaning

Sweeping Frequency and Timing

- ✓ Maintain a consistent sweeping schedule. Provide minimum monthly sweeping of streets.
- ✓ Perform street cleaning during dry weather if possible.
- ✓ Avoid wet cleaning or flushing of streets, and utilize dry methods where possible.
- ✓ If flushing of a street is absolutely necessary, sweep and remove debris before flushing. Do not let wash water enter storm drain inlets. Collect wash water and direct to a dirt or vegetated area, pump into a vacuum truck and dispose of properly.

OPTIONAL:

- Consider increasing sweeping frequency based on factors such as traffic volume, land use, field observations of sediment and trash accumulation, proximity to water courses, etc.

Equipment Operation and Selection

→ *Note: Permission must be obtained for any discharge of wash water to the sanitary sewer from the local sewerage agency.*

- ✓ Maintain cleaning equipment in good working condition and purchase replacement equipment as needed. Old sweepers should be replaced as needed with new technologically advanced sweepers (preferably regenerative air sweepers) that maximize pollutant removal.
- ✓ Operate sweepers at manufacturer requested optimal speed levels to increase effectiveness.
- ✓ Clean sweepers at a wash rack that drains to the sanitary sewer. The wash rack area should be covered and bermed and wash water should drain to a clarifier prior to entering the sanitary sewer.
- ✓ Regularly inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks, and repair immediately.

OPTIONAL:

- If available use vacuum or regenerative air sweepers in the high sediment and trash areas (typically industrial/commercial).

Management of Material Removed by Sweeping

- ✓ Dispose of street sweeping debris and dirt at a landfill.
- ✓ Do not store swept material along the side of the street or near a storm drain inlet.
- ✓ If dewatering of saturated materials is necessary it should be conducted in a designated area away from storm drain inlets and the water contained for proper disposal.

→ *Note: Permission must be obtained for any discharge of wash water to the sanitary sewer from the local sewerage agency.*

Maximize Access for Sweepers

- ✓ If authorized by the local sanitation agency, water may be discharged to the sanitary sewer only after passing through a clarifier. As an alternative, dewatering can be conducted in a containment area in which saturated materials are placed on a tarp and allowed to dry. Dry debris is then disposed of properly.
- ✓ Keep debris storage to a minimum during the wet season or make sure debris piles are contained (e.g. by berming the area) or covered (e.g. with tarps or permanent covers).
- ✓ Keep accurate operation logs to track program.
- ✓ Properly maintain and operate equipment; which will increase efficiency.
- ✓ Sweeping should be conducted as close to the curb line as possible.

OPTIONAL:

- Institute a parking policy to restrict parking in problematic areas during periods of street sweeping.
- Post permanent street sweeping signs in problematic areas; use temporary signs if installation of permanent signs is not possible.
- Develop and distribute flyers notifying residents of street sweeping schedules.

2. Repair and Maintenance

Pavement Marking

- ✓ Develop paint handling procedures for proper use, storage, and disposal of paints.
- ✓ Transfer and load paint and hot thermoplastic away from storm drain inlets.
- ✓ Street or hand sweep thermoplastic grindings. Yellow thermoplastic grindings may require special handling as they may contain lead.
- ✓ Replace paints containing lead and tributyltin with less toxic alternatives.
- ✓ Use water based paints. Clean application equipment in a sink that is connected to the sanitary sewer.
- ✓ Properly store leftover paints if they are to be kept for the next job, or dispose of properly.
- ✓ See *Spill Control procedure sheet* for guidance on the proper cleanup of paint spills.

Concrete Installation and Repair

- ✓ Avoid mixing excess amounts of fresh concrete or cement mortar on-site. Only mix what is needed for the job.
- ✓ Wash concrete trucks off site or in designated areas on site, such that there is no discharge of concrete wash water into storm drain inlets, open ditches, streets, or other stormwater conveyance structures.

- ✓ Store concrete materials under cover, away from drainage areas.
- ✓ Return leftover materials to the transit mixer. Dispose of small amounts of hardened excess concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- ✓ Do not wash sweepings from exposed aggregate concrete into the street or storm drain. Collect and return sweepings to aggregate base stockpile, or dispose in the trash.
- ✓ When washing poured concrete areas to remove fine particles and expose the aggregate, contain the wash water for proper disposal; do not discharge water to the storm drain system.
- ✓ Do not allow excess concrete to be dumped on-site, except in designated areas.
- ✓ Apply concrete, asphalt, and seal coat during dry weather to allow the material to adequately dry prior to a rain event.
- ✓ When making saw cuts in pavement, use as little water as possible and perform during dry weather. Cover each nearby or appropriate storm drain inlet completely with filter fabric or plastic during the sawing operation and contain the slurry by placing straw bales, sandbags, or gravel dams around the inlets. After the liquid drains or evaporates, shovel or vacuum the slurry residue from the pavement or gutter and remove from site. Alternatively, a small on-site vacuum may be used to pick up the slurry as this will prohibit slurry from reaching storm drain inlets.

Patching, Resurfacing, and Surface Sealing

- ✓ Pre-heat, transfer or load hot bituminous material away from storm drain inlets.
- ✓ Apply concrete, asphalt, and seal coat during dry weather to allow the material to adequately dry prior to a rain event.
- ✓ Where applicable, cover and seal each nearby or appropriate storm drain inlet (with waterproof material, plastic or mesh) and maintenance holes before applying seal coat, slurry seal, etc. Leave covers in place until job is complete and until all water from emulsified oil sealants has drained or evaporated. Clean any debris from covered man holes and storm drain inlets when the job is complete.
- ✓ Use only as much water as necessary for dust control, to avoid runoff.
- ✓ Catch drips from paving equipment that is not in use with pans or absorbent material placed under the machines. Dispose of collected material and absorbents properly.
- ✓ Prior to a rain event or at the completion of a project, sweep the project area by hand or with a street sweeper.

Equipment Cleaning, Maintenance, and Storage

Also see Equipment Repair & Maintenance procedure sheet.

- ✓ Clean equipment including sprayers, sprayer paint supply lines, patch and paving equipment, and mudjacking equipment at the end of each day. If equipment can be cleaned and materials reapplied at the job site, do so in compliance with the laws and regulations. Clean in a sink or other area (e.g. vehicle wash area) that is connected to the sanitary sewer.

→ *Note: Permission must be obtained for any discharge of wash water to the sanitary sewer from the local sewerage agency.*

- ✓ If refueling or repairing vehicles and equipment must be done on-site, conduct the activity away from storm drain inlets and watercourses.
- ✓ Place drip pans or absorbent materials under heavy equipment when not in use.
- ✓ Clean paint brushes and tools covered with water-based paints in sinks connected to sanitary sewers. Brushes and tools covered with non-water-based paints, finishes, or other materials must be cleaned in a manner that enables collection of used solvents (e.g., paint thinner, turpentine, etc.) for recycling or proper disposal.

OPTIONAL:

- Conduct cleaning at a corporation or maintenance yard if possible.
- When practical, perform major equipment repairs at the corporation yard.

→ *In addition to the procedures above, review and apply general procedures outlined for Minor Construction activities when conducting street, road, and highway repair and maintenance activities.*

3. Bridge and Structure Maintenance

Painting and Paint Removal

- ✓ Transport paint and materials to and from job sites in containers with secure lids and tied down to the transport vehicle.
- ✓ Do not transfer or load paint near storm drain inlets or watercourses.
- ✓ Test and inspect spray equipment prior to starting to paint. Tighten all hoses and connections and do not overfill paint container.
- ✓ If sand blasting is used to remove paint, cover nearby storm drain inlets prior to starting work.
- ✓ If the bridge crosses a watercourse, perform work on a maintenance traveler or platform, or use suspended netting or tarps to capture paint, rust, paint removing agents, or other materials, to prevent discharge of materials to surface waters. If sanding, use a sander with a vacuum filter bag.
- ✓ Recycle paint when possible (e.g. paint may be used for graffiti removal activities). Dispose of paint at an appropriate household hazardous waste facility.
- ✓ See Spill Control procedure sheet for guidance on the proper cleanup of paint spills.

Graffiti Removal

- ✓ Avoid graffiti abatement activities during rain events.
- ✓ Protect nearby storm drain inlets prior to removing graffiti from walls, signs, sidewalks, or other structures needing graffiti abatement. Clean up

afterwards by sweeping or vacuuming thoroughly, and/or by using absorbent and properly disposing of the absorbent.

- ✓ Note that care should be taken when disposing of waste since it may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- ✓ When graffiti is removed by painting over, implement the procedures under Painting and Paint Removal above.
- ✓ Direct runoff from sand blasting and high pressure washing (with no cleaning agents) into a landscaped or dirt area.
- ✓ If a graffiti abatement method generates wash water containing a cleaning compound (such as high pressure washing with a cleaning compound), plug nearby storm drains and collect wash water and dispose of properly.

OPTIONAL:

- Consider using a waterless and non-toxic chemical cleaning method for graffiti removal (e.g. gels or spray compounds).

Guardrail and Fence Repair

- ✓ When cleaning guardrails or fences follow the appropriate surface cleaning methods (depending on the type of surface) outlined in the *Sidewalk, Plaza, and Fountain Maintenance and Cleaning* procedure sheet.
- ✓ If painting is conducted, follow the *Painting and Paint Removal* procedures above.
- ✓ If graffiti removal is conducted, follow the *Grffiti Removal* procedures above.
- ✓ If construction takes place, see the procedure sheet for *Minor Construction*.
- ✓ Recycle materials whenever possible.

LIMITATIONS:

Limitations related to street sweeping may include high equipment costs, the potential inability to restrict parking in urban areas, the need for sweeper operator training, the inability of current sweeper technology to remove oil and grease, and the lack of scientific evidence regarding the expected levels of pollutant removal.

REFERENCES:

Model Urban Runoff Program: A How-To Guide for Developing Urban Runoff Programs for Small Municipalities. Prepared by City of Monterey, City of Santa Cruz, California Coastal Commission, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Woodward-Clyde, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. July. 1998.

Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies. Oregon Municipal Stormwater Toolbox for Maintenance Practices. June 1998.

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. 1997 Urban Runoff Management Plan. September 1997, updated October 2000.