



# Good Housekeeping Practices for CONSTRUCTION SITES-Fact Sheet

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## Protect the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado

Good housekeeping is practices designed to prevent or minimize the use of materials that could become pollutants or their exposure to the weather. Good housekeeping practices seek to reduce or eliminate pollutants being added to construction site runoff through analysis of pollutant sources, implementing proper handling and disposal practices, employee education, and other actions. In general, good housekeeping focuses on keeping the work site clean and orderly, storing materials under roof whenever possible, and handling materials and wastes in manner that minimizes risk and potential pollutant runoff. A variety of good housekeeping practices have been developed to reduce or eliminate runoff pollutants.



Please see next page.

## Good Housekeeping Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Construction Sites

*Utilize these Good Housekeeping BMP's to help prevent stormwater runoff pollution in local resacas, the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado.*

- ✓ **STORM DRAIN INLETS.** Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials. Use rock or other appropriate material to cover the storm drain inlet to filter out trash and debris. Make sure the rock size is appropriate (usually 1 to 2 inches in diameter). If you use inlet filters, maintain them regularly to assure the effectiveness.
- ✓ **THE CONSTRUCTION SITE.** Remove mud and dirt from tires of construction vehicles before they enter a paved roadway, dry sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar from your street and gutter. Remember to give the entrance space, a properly size entrance is also a BMP for your site. Make sure that the construction entrance does not become buried in soil.
- ✓ **CONSTRUCTION PHASING.** Try to sequence construction activity so that soil is not exposed for long periods of time, install sediment controls before site grading begins and plan site stabilization, such as landscaping, to begin as soon as the site has been graded to its final contour.
- ✓ **PROTECT NATURAL FEATURES.** Minimize clearing, the amount of exposed soil and protect streams, stream buffers, wild woodlands, wetlands, or other sensitive areas from any disturbance or construction activity by fencing or otherwise clearly marking these areas.
- ✓ **USE VEGETATIVE BUFFERS.** Protect and install vegetative buffers along water bodies to slow and filter stormwater runoff. Maintain buffers periodically to ensure their effectiveness.
- ✓ **SILT FENCING.** Inspect and maintain silt fences after each rainstorm, make sure the bottom of the silt fence is buried in the ground and securely attach the material to the stakes. Don't place silt fences in the middle of a waterway or use them as a check dam. Make sure that stormwater is not flowing around the silt fence.
- ✓ **PURCHASE AND USE NONTOXIC, BIODEGRADABLE, RECYCLED, AND RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.** Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills, failure to properly store hazardous materials dramatically increases the probability that they will end up in local waterways
- ✓ **DESIGNATE SPECIFIC AREAS.** Establish certain areas of the construction site for material storage, and for cleaning to be performed. Don't wash nor maintain vehicles in the street; tires, fluids, filters, and soap can make their way downstream to the water bodies we are trying to protect.

*Protecting Water Quality at Construction Sites It's Everyone's Responsibility*