

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

# Pollution

## Prevention Guide

*Help protect our creeks,  
lagoons and ocean.*



 City of  
Carlsbad

## A MESSAGE FROM THE City of Carlsbad



The City of Carlsbad is committed to working with you to protect our natural resources. It is our hope that this brochure will help you identify potential sources of pollution, take proactive steps to prevent pollution and implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) at your construction site. By working together, we hope to make your job easier while keeping our creeks, lagoons and ocean clean.

The City of Carlsbad inspects construction sites to ensure proper implementation of BMPs and pollution prevention methods. If you have questions or need more information about storm water programs, regulations or BMP requirements, please contact us.

We look forward to working with you to protect the water quality in our city and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,  
City of Carlsbad

## Contact Us

**Construction Management and Inspection**  
442-339-2780 • [cmi@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:cmi@carlsbadca.gov)

**Building**  
442-339-2719 • [building@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:building@carlsbadca.gov)

**Land Development Engineering**  
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[www.carlsbadca.gov](http://www.carlsbadca.gov)



## Water Quality Regulations for Construction Sites



Construction site owners and operators in the City of Carlsbad are required to comply with local, state and federal storm water regulations. Construction sites can contribute pollutants such as sediment, metals and chemicals to our local creeks, lagoons and ocean. Urban runoff in Carlsbad is regulated by

the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, which give the city the authority to enforce water quality regulations.

Storm drains are not connected to treatment and flow directly into our creeks, lagoons and ocean. All site owners, developers and contractors must implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent illegal discharges to the storm drain system. In addition, some construction sites must obtain coverage under the NPDES.

The City of Carlsbad’s engineers and inspectors are dedicated to ensuring that construction sites comply with storm water regulations. By working together, we can help protect our natural resources for future generations.

## Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are methods and behaviors to prevent pollutants from leaving construction sites and entering the storm drain system. Proper implementation and maintenance of BMPs is crucial to protecting our creeks, lagoons and ocean.

The following is a list of BMPs that must be implemented at all construction sites:

- Conduct daily site inspections
- Develop spill response and containment procedures
- Educate employees and subcontractors about BMPs
- Develop a SWPPP or erosion control plan as required, and update as site conditions change
- Regularly maintain all BMPs at the project site
- Monitor weather conditions to ensure adequate BMP implementation



## Right of Way Permitting

When construction activities occur in the street or materials are stored on the public right-of-way, the contractor is required to apply for a permit. This permit allows the contractor to not only use the city’s right-of-way areas, but also requires them to implement BMPs. For more information or to obtain a right-of-way permit, contact the City of Carlsbad Land Development Engineering.



## Inspection and Enforcement

The City of Carlsbad has established an inspection and enforcement program to ensure that construction sites comply with storm water regulations. Site owners, developers and contractors can be held responsible for violations, administrative citations and civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day. In addition, they will also be responsible for reimbursement of expenses associated with investigations, containment and cleanup.

# Best Management Practices

## Site Overview

If not properly managed, construction sites can cause sediment, trash and other pollutants to enter the city's storm drain system. Storm drains flow directly into our creeks, lagoons and ocean. Discharges to the storm drain are prohibited by law. Minimum Best Management Practices required for all construction sites are illustrated below.

## Tracking Controls

- Use BMPs such as coarse gravel or shaker plates at entrances and exits to prevent sediment tracking.
- If sediment is tracked offsite, street sweeping may be required.
- Inspect and maintain tracking control BMPs on a regular basis.

## Materials Storage

- Cover and contain building materials and equipment stored onsite.
- Do not dump or wash materials to the street or storm drain.
- Properly dispose of paint brushes and spray guns. It is illegal to wash paint to the street or storm drain.
- Promptly dispose of unusable equipment and materials.

## Building Materials/Staging Areas

- Store construction materials onsite at all times unless a right-of-way permit has been obtained.
- Cover construction materials when not in use to prevent run-off caused by wind or rain.
- Contact the City of Carlsbad Engineering if a right-of-way permit is required.

## Perimeter Controls/ Erosion Control

- Use perimeter control, such as gravel bags, silt fences, and/or straw wattles to control run-on and run-off.
- Avoid running over perimeter controls with vehicles or heavy equipment.
- Maintain BMP stockpiles and keep absorbent materials on site to contain spills or potential discharges.
- Inspect and maintain erosion and perimeter control BMPs daily and before any forecasted rain event.

## Concrete/Pumper Trucks

- Use BMPs such as sand bags around concrete machinery and trucks.
- Place plastic sheets beneath machinery and trucks.
- Clean up any residual materials.
- Use washout areas whenever cleaning trucks and equipment.
- Properly dispose of materials.

## Portable Restroom

- Secondary containment is required around all portable restrooms.
- Portable restrooms must be stored away from storm drains and on level surfaces.

## Washout Area

- Dispose of “wet” construction materials such as paint, stucco and concrete in the washout area.
- Use a berm and/or plastic sheet to collect and contain materials.
- Washout areas must be covered when not in use.
- Inspect and maintain washout areas daily.

## Grading Activities

- Properly stabilize slopes and unprotected areas.
- Store stockpiles of dirt and gravel on pervious surfaces.
- Protect stockpiles and other materials with a tarp, straw matting or other form of protection.
- Keep plastic covers or tarps available to protect exposed areas.
- Disturbed areas must be fully protected if left for 10 or more days.
- Inspect and maintain BMPs to prevent runoff, particularly during the rainy season.

## Equipment and Machinery

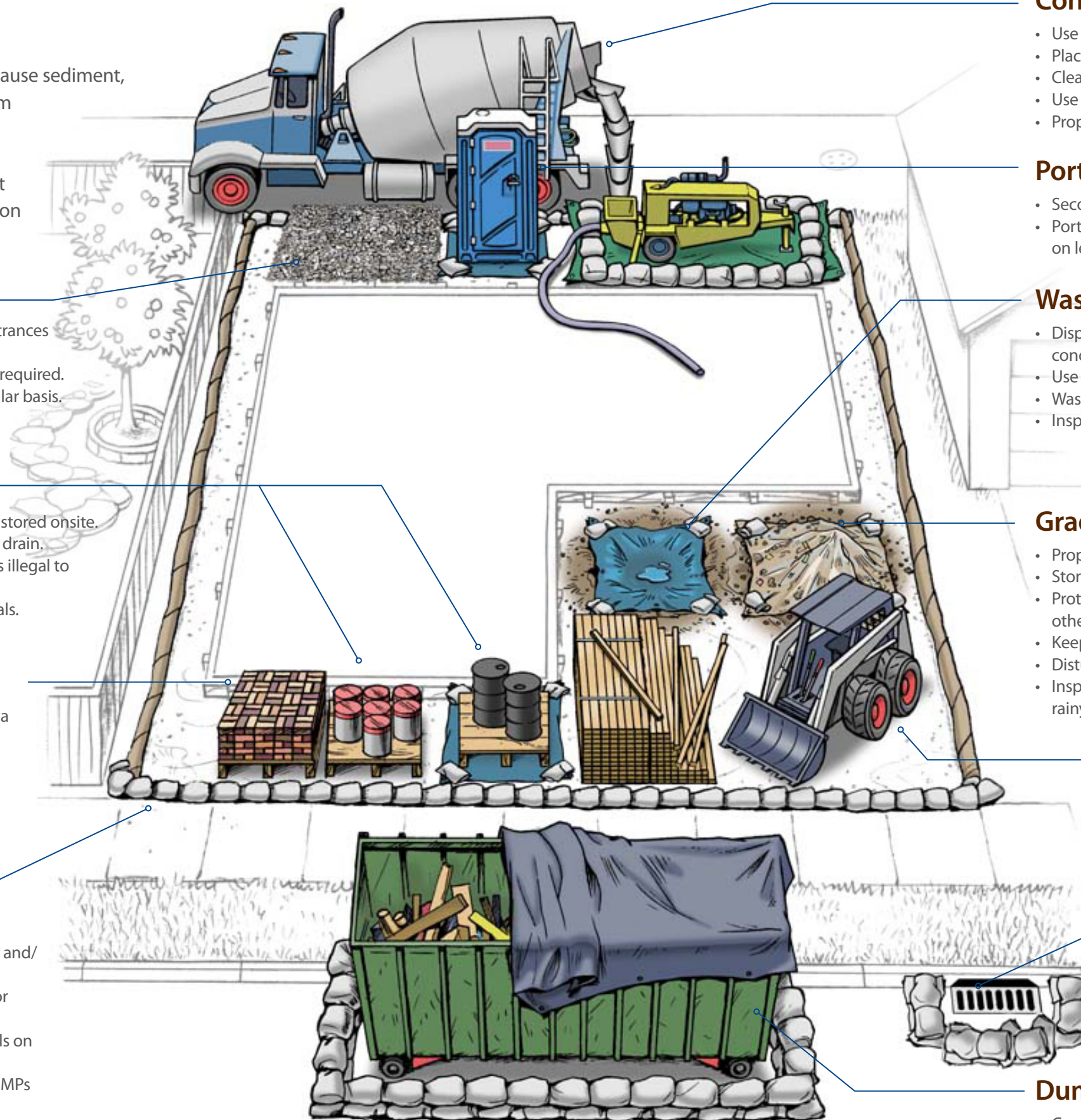
- Store all equipment and machinery onsite.
- Drip pans or containment pools should be placed beneath equipment and machinery when not in use.
- Immediately contain and clean up spills/leaks from equipment and machinery.

## — Storm Drains

- Protect storm drains and treatment control structures with BMPs, such as gravel bags, filter fabric or straw wattles.
- Inspect, maintain and clean storm drain BMPs as needed.

## – Dumpsters

- Cover dumpsters with a rollback tarp when not in use.
- Regularly inspect the dumpster area and clean as necessary.



Please check your site plan for specific BMPs and requirements.