

• **Construction**

Sediment, from excavation and other construction projects, is the most common pollutant washed from worksites. Sediment entering the ocean through storm drains harms sea life and disrupts the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.



**a GENERAL PRACTICES**

- Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drain. Look for and clean up material that may have traveled away from your property.
- Keep materials out of the rain by storing them indoors or outdoors with a secure roof or plastic sheeting.

**b EROSION CONTROL**

- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt, sand, etc. with plastic tarps.
- Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.



**c RECYCLE**

- Use a crushing company to recycle cement, asphalt and porcelain rather than taking them to a landfill. Check the yellow pages for companies that provide these services or telephone 1-888 CLEAN LA

**Spill Response Agencies**

- To report a spill or release of hazardous material that actively threatens people or property call:  
**City of Long Beach - Fire Department**  
Dial 911
  - To report a spill or release of motor oil, paint, solvents, or fuel in immediate danger of entering storm drain system call:  
**City of Long Beach - Fire Department**  
Dial 911
- If not in immediate danger of entering storm drain system call:
- **City of Long Beach - Fire Department**  
(562) 436-8211
  - To report non-hazardous spills in sewer system call:  
**City of Long Beach - Water Department**  
(562) 570-2390

**Storm Drains & Public Streets**

- To report clogged catch basins & drains call:  
**City of Long Beach - Water Department**  
(562) 570-2390
- To report sediment of mud in public street or alley call:  
**City of Long Beach - Department of Public Works**  
(562) 570-2700
- To report trash, leaves, branches, & grass clippings in the public street or alley call:  
**City of Long Beach - Department of Public Works**  
(562) 570-2876

**Unhealthful Discharges or Conditions**

- To report discharges of food waste.
- To report discharges of sewage, greywater, dirtywater, RV waste, raw sewage, or pool & pond water.
- To report discharges of stagnant pool or pond water.
- To report discharges from apartment house dumpsters call:  
**City of Long Beach**  
**Department of Health & Human Services**  
**Bureau of Environmental Health**  
(562) 570-4129

**Illicit Discharges from Private Property**

- To report discharges from dumpsters on private property.
- To report discharges from washing of roofs of single family dwellings.
- To report trash & debris on privately owned property.
- To report illegal mobile car wash businesses.
- To report illegal auto repair business on private property.
- To report Auto repair on the public street.
- To report discharges from construction sites call:  
**City of Long Beach**  
**Department of Planning & Building**  
(562) 570-6651

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

**Automotive Maintenance & Car Care**

**Food Service Industry**

**Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application**

**General Construction & Site Supervision**

**Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities**

**Horse Owners & Equine Industry**

**Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control**

**Painting**

**Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi & Fountain Maintenance**

**Roadwork & Paving**

For additional brochures call:

**City of Long Beach**  
**Department of Planning & Building**  
(562) 570-6651

For more information about storm drain protection call:

**City of Long Beach**  
**Department of Public Works**  
**Bureau of Engineering**  
**Stormwater Management Division**  
(562) 570-6383



**Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)**



**Home Repair & Remodeling**

Homeowners  
Do-It-Yourself Remodelers  
Do-It-Yourself Painters  
Do-It-Yourself Landscapers

## Ocean Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

Long Beach has two drainage systems -- the sewers and the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets out to the ocean. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to the ocean.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent ocean pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to the ocean through the storm drain system -- 395 miles of pipes that take water and debris straight from Long Beach streets to the ocean. Each year millions of gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our surf and over 4,300 tons of trash on our beaches.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates the ocean, closes beaches, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins. Overall, stormwater pollution prevention programs cost the City of Long Beach more than \$12.7 million per year.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure a cleaner ocean and city.

## ☒ Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

**Household toxics** — such as common household cleaners, paint products and motor oil — can pollute the ocean and poison the groundwater if not disposed of as hazardous waste.

- Take your household chemicals and toxics to a local **Household Hazardous Waste Roundup** or the **City of Los Angeles HazMobile** instead of dumping them on the ground, down the sink or into a gutter, street or storm drain.
- Call the City of Long Beach's Integrated Resources Bureau (IRB) at (562) 570-2876 or 1-888-Clean LA to find out when a neighborhood roundup event will take place in your community.

### ● Concrete & Masonry

Fresh concrete and mortar application materials can wash down or blow into the street, gutter or storm drain, posing a hazard to sea life and humans.

- Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use.



- Store bags of cement and plaster under cover, protected from rainfall, runoff and wind, and away from gutters and storm drains.
- Never dispose of cement washout or concrete dust onto driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.

### ● Painting

All paints and solvents contain chemicals that are harmful to sea life. Toxic chemicals can come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues on rags. It is especially important to prevent these chemicals from entering storm drains.



#### a PAINT CLEANUP

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter or storm drain.
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible. Clean with thinner and then filter and reuse thinner.
- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, then rinse in the sink.
- When thoroughly dry, used brushes, empty paint cans (lids off), rags and drop cloths may be disposed of as trash.



#### b PAINT REMOVAL

- Chemical paint stripping residue, including saturated rags, is a hazardous waste and should be taken to a household hazardous waste collection event.
- Chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin are also hazardous wastes. Sweep them up and save them for a household hazardous waste collection event.

### ☒ PAINT RECYCLING

- Reuse leftover paint for touch-ups or recycle it at a local household hazardous waste collection event, where it will be recycled or donated to a local graffiti paint-out program.

### ● Landscaping & Gardening

Intensive gardening and landscaping increase the likelihood that garden chemicals and soil will wash into storm drains. Pesticides and herbicides not only kill garden invaders, they also harm insects, poison fish and contaminate ground and ocean water.



- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers and pesticides. Do not fertilize or use pesticides near ditches, gutters or storm drains.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- Do not blow, sweep or rake leaves into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- In communities with curbside yard waste recycling, leave clippings and pruning waste for pick up in approved containers. For additional information on curbside recycling telephone the City of Long Beach's Integrated Resources Bureau (IRB) at (562) 570-2876.
- **Conserve water** by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems.

