



## FACT SHEET



BMPs facilitate regulatory compliance; they go beyond meeting established minimum requirements. They are ways of carrying out your business activities that can significantly reduce the risk of pollution and may even save you money. They're good for the environment, your customers, and your business.

### COMPLIANCE

State law mandates that local agencies set minimum standards to protect the sanitary sewer and storm drain systems. This Fact Sheet includes minimum standards for regulatory compliance set by CCCSD and by your city's Stormwater Ordinance. Failure to comply with these minimum standards can result in citations and possible fines.

# GOOD STORAGE PRACTICES

**Good storage practices help prevent water pollution while allowing your business to effectively manage its inventory and wastes.**

### MINIMUM STANDARDS

Keep spilled or leaked pollutants from reaching storm drains or sanitary sewer drains.

Cover materials such as oily parts, batteries, bulk chemicals and hazardous waste drums when stored outdoors. Contact your local building department for construction requirements for covered storage areas.

In outdoor areas, provide secondary containment whenever storing liquids (or used batteries and other items that could leak liquids).

For outdoor storage, cover the secondary containment area so the container meant for catching spills doesn't fill up with rain.

Check with your Fire Department on items that should be stored outdoors.

Provide secondary containment for liquid storage near a sanitary sewer drain if discharge of those materials to the sanitary sewer is regulated by CCCSD.

Make sure storage containers are in good condition and are compatible with the contents. Replace defective containers.

Store different types of hazardous wastes in separate containers and label the containers.

Provide aisles in storage areas where hazardous waste is kept.

Separate materials that could react with each other.

On containers for hazardous waste, keep lids closed when not in use.

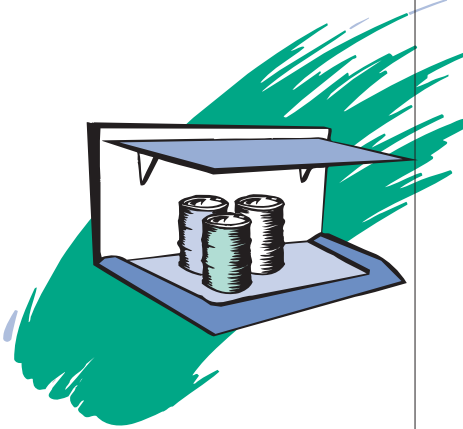
Ensure secondary containment areas are big enough to hold the spill, won't react with what could spill into it, and meet applicable Fire Code and hazardous material regulations.

Some storage units have built-in secondary containment.



Tarps can provide temporary cover for materials stored outdoors. Use weights on edges to keep tarp in place.

Roofs provide a permanent way to keep stored materials out of the rain.



An asphalt or concrete berm is one way to provide secondary containment, and, if gently sloped, can be driven over.

## BMPs

If using a tarp to cover materials stored outdoors, make sure the area is sloped or bermed (curbed) so storm water runoff can't flow under the tarp.

Move stored items indoors when appropriate.

Check containers frequently for rust, bulges, dents or leaks

Post reminder signs on labeled containers as needed (for example, "Used oil - no solvents or antifreeze").

Check with your waste hauler before combining wastes, since combining them may make recycling impossible and/or increase disposal costs.

Prevent spills when transferring liquids. Use funnels, pumps and/or spigots. Use absorbent pads that fit drum tops to catch drips.

Keep all container lids closed when not in use.

Consider secondary containment even when it's not required. Think of it as spill insurance - it's much

easier to clean up a spill or leak in a secondary containment area.

Provide aisles in storage areas so workers and emergency response personnel have unobstructed access.

Substitute less-toxic products to reduce the amount of hazardous materials you store.

Minimize waste by using a first-in, first-out policy for stored materials to reduce product expiration

Purchase only what you'll need in the foreseeable future.

When storing wrecked vehicles, check for leaks and drain fluids as soon as possible. Place drip pans underneath.

Check out the following web site for a national database of pollution prevention products and services: <http://es.epa.gov/vendors>.

## ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is one of a series created by CCCSD to help businesses understand why and how to prevent water pollution. The contents are informational and summary in nature and do not constitute legal advice.

For more information, call CCCSD's Environmental Compliance Section at **(925) 229-7288**, or visit us at **[www.centalsan.org](http://www.centalsan.org)**

For more information on hazardous waste requirements, call the Contra Costa County Health Services - Hazardous Materials Programs at **(925) 655-3200**.

For information on how to prevent storm drain pollution, please visit the following web sites:

Contra Costa Clean Water Program: **[www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org)**  
Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies: **[www.basmaa.org](http://www.basmaa.org)**

For information on Environmental Health requirements, call the Contra Costa County Environmental Health Department at **(925) 692-2500**.

Other regulatory agencies you may wish to contact include:

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District  
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District