

September 1999



Alameda Countywide
Clean Water Program
A Consortium of Local Agencies

In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in Alameda County have joined to form the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP).

The ACCWP consists of the Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Alameda County, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Zone 7 of the District.

The Goal of the ACCWP is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks and the San Francisco Bay). The ACCWP encourages using Best Management Practices to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections.

The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

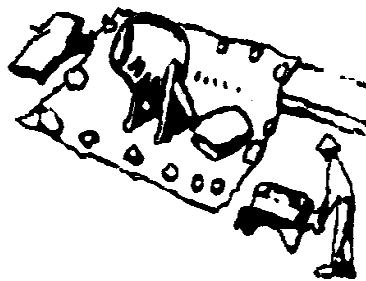
Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

Finish the Pour Right

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, and the San Francisco Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, wastewater discharged to the storm drains is illegal.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, municipalities participating in the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP) have instituted a business education campaign and inspection program. Inspectors work with contractors and businesses to identify and control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible for their contractors' practices.*



Concrete washwater contains sediments that coat stream beds and chemicals that harm fish and other wildlife. Concrete wastes block and back-up underground pipes.

By following some of the common sense practices on the back of this sheet you can make a difference in the water quality and health of San Francisco Bay.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention contact your local program representatives at **1-888-BAY-WISE**.



Best Management Practices

Follow these BMPs to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into the storm drains. The goal is "only rain in the storm drain."

How to properly dispose of concrete wastes:

- \$ Use a squeegee or similar tool to remove all excess concrete from the chute.
- \$ Place all excess concrete in a form, holder, box, or a designated washout area where it may be removed once it is hardened. You may need to make a number of smaller piles because solid concrete is very heavy. All concrete finishing tools and pumping hoses should also be cleaned in the washout area.
- \$ Use the minimum amount of water to wash down the chute, finishing tools, and any other equipment.
- \$ Remove the concrete sediment from the street, gutters, and area surrounding the washout area before it hardens.
- \$ Dispose of concrete wash water properly. Two examples are described below.

Disposing of Washwater

Preferred Practice: Contain all washwater on soil, preferably in a bowl shaped area to prevent the wash water from flowing from the washout area.

Alternate Practice:

1. Find the storm drain immediately down stream from the designated washout area. Block the storm drain and dam an area to collect the washwater. One effective control method is to use sandbags. To properly install, first wet down the sand bags, then compact them tightly to one another and to the curb so that no silty water can flow through.
2. Allow particles to settle and allow the water to evaporate.
3. Remove any remaining concrete sediment.
4. Discard the concrete particles to the trash or landfill.

Remember, it is illegal to dispose of concrete or washwater in the storm drain. Also, do not dispose of concrete in the sanitary sewer.

