



Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices for Controlling Runoff during Remediation at Contaminated Sites

Alachua County Water Quality Code (Chapter 77, ACC) prohibits non-stormwater discharges into storm water management systems.

Stormwater should only contain clean rainwater, not pollutants such as washwater, sediment, mud, foaming agents, and development water.

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 without any treatment.

The **Sanitary Sewer System** collects and transports domestic wastes from interior building plumbing systems to a wastewater treatment plant where it 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.

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 into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

This Fact Sheet provides background information and BMPs for remediation activities at petroleum or other contaminated sites.

Construction and well drilling activities during the cleanup process, when improperly managed, can result in discharge of contaminants, drilling fluids or sediments into our local water bodies. Discharges may result in violations of the Water Quality Code.

Following the BMPs on the back of this sheet will help ensure compliance with the Water Quality Code and improve water quality in Alachua County.



All drilling fluids, cuttings, and grout should be properly maintained such that pollutants and sediments are not allowed to enter storm drains, creeks and lakes.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Controlling potential contaminants at the source is the best way to prevent pollutants from ever reaching the storm water system. Here are some ways to accomplish this:

- Maintain construction areas using “dry cleanup methods” such as sweeping for removal of litter, debris and sediments and the use of rags and absorbents for leaks and spills.
- Shovel or sweep loose, dry drill cuttings, dried cement and dust, dry drilling additives (barite, bentonite, sands, gravel), or other debris into drums, if contaminated. If uncontaminated, **AND** if an acceptable large grassy area exists onsite, spread cuttings, etc., into a **THIN** layer over grass, so the material will settle into the grass and soil.
- Contain liquids produced during drilling, equipment cleaning/washdown, or well purging activities by constructing a containment area. Allow uncontaminated waters to soak into the ground, drum all contaminated liquids for proper disposal. Washwater, sediment, mud, foaming agents, or development water should not be discharged to a storm drain, creek, or lake.
- Temporary settling ponds or mud pits should be protected from stormwater by banks. Uncontaminated water from these ponds or pits can be allowed to soak into the soil, so long as there is no discharge to a storm drain, creek or lake. At the completion of site activities, settling ponds and mud pits must be properly filled and stabilized.
- Use silt fencing or other appropriate controls to contain run-off from the site, particularly during the wetter months of the year (summer, rainy winter months).
- During excavations of any type, and as required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), excavated soils are to be placed on VisQueen® or similar impervious material, and then totally covered at the end of each work day by the same material. The impervious material used should be installed both under and over the excavated stockpiles, so that weather will not disturb it or cause run-off to occur.
- Open excavations should also be **COMPLETELY** marked, and either covered or fenced before leaving the site. The public should be aware of the excavation and protected. The excavation should be protected from receiving runoff from other areas of the site.
- Other BMPs that can be implemented involve retro fitting of storm drains with filtration devices, screens, or centrifuges to reduce pollutant loadings before discharge. Use of these controls require permission of the stormwater system owner and may require a permit.
- Obtain and comply with appropriate federal, state, and local permits and permit requirements for any off-site discharges. Permitted discharges may require water quality monitoring for turbidity.

Proper cleanup of incidental spills during cleanup of contaminated sites is essential to reducing the load of pollutants that enters our creeks and lakes. Many of these pollutants entering our water bodies adsorb onto sediments degrading benthic habitat as well as water quality in aquatic ecosystems. Suspended sediments clog the gills of fish and macroinvertebrates and damage habitat, decreasing biodiversity in our aquatic ecosystems.

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