



R 4. Home & Garden Care Activities

The table below identifies activity-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are appropriate to prevent or mitigate pollution generated from the subject activity. These are the minimum designated BMPs that must be implemented to eliminate prohibited discharges and limit impact on water quality to the maximum extent practicable. Below the matrix and following each BMP, is a listing of suggested implementation strategies to consider that may help achieve compliance with the minimum designated BMPs. However, please be aware that satisfaction of these strategies by themselves does not necessarily guarantee compliance with the minimum designated BMPs. Additional actions and efforts may be needed to fully achieve compliance with the minimum designated BMPs. The “Other Tips & Techniques” Section provides additional items to consider that promote pollution prevention, conservation and good house keeping ideas that ultimately benefit water quality and our environment.

Minimum Designated Best Management Practices BMPs	
1.	Do not dispose of wash or wastewater in the streets, gutters, storm drains, or natural watercourses.
2.	Provide contractor training.
3.	Use extra precautions when applying pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers and soil amendments.



**Only Rain in the Storm Drain.
The Ocean begins at your front door.**

Suggested Implementation Strategies for Minimum Designated Best Management Practices (BMPs)

1. **Do not dispose of wash or wastewater in the streets, gutters, storm drains, or natural watercourses.**

- A. Use sweeping and pick-up methods or vacuum to clean hardscape areas, including streets & gutters. Do not wash materials into the street, gutters or storm drains.
- B. If pressure washing, use a collection device that enables collection of wash water and associated solids. Use a sump pump, wet vacuum or similarly effective device to collect runoff and loose materials. Dispose of collected runoff and solids properly.
- C. Clean paint brushes and tools in sinks connected to sanitary sewers or in portable containers that can be dumped into a sink, toilet, or other drain that is plumbed to the sanitary sewer.
- D. Paint brushes and tools covered with non-water based materials must be cleaned in a manner that enables collection of uses solvents (e.g., paint thinner, turpentine, etc.) for recycling or proper disposal.
- E. Dispose of mop and wash water from cleaning in a mop sink, toilet or other drain that is plumbed to the sanitary sewer.

2. **Provide contractor training.**

- A. If you hire a contractors or employees to do work or clean in your house, educate and inform them of the required BMPs, storm water discharge prohibitions, and wastewater requirements.
- B. Educate and train contractors and employees on site-specific drainage facilities such as locations of streets, gutters, storm drain inlets, v-ditches and other drainage courses.
- C. Educate contractors and employees on proper spill containment and cleanup methods.

3. **Use extra precautions when applying pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers and soil amendments.**

- A. Follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the use, storage, and disposal of pesticides and herbicides and training of applicators and pest control advisors.
- B. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and label directions.
- C. Do not apply pesticides if rain is expected or if wind speeds are above 5 mph.
- D. Do not mix or prepare pesticides for application near storm drains. Prepare the minimum amount of pesticide needed for the job and use the lowest rate that will effectively control the targeted pest.
- E. Whenever possible, use mechanical methods of vegetation removal rather than applying herbicides. Use hand weeding where practical.
- F. Do not apply any chemicals directly to surface waters, unless the application is approved and permitted by the state. Do not spray pesticides within 100 feet of open waters.
- G. Employ techniques to minimize off-target application (e.g. spray drift) of pesticides, including consideration of alternative application techniques.

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- H. Clean pavement and sidewalk if chemicals are spilled on these surfaces before applying irrigation water.
 - I. Implement storage requirements for pesticide products with guidance from the local fire department and/or County Agricultural Commissioner.
 - J. Dispose of empty containers according to the instructions on the container label.
 - K. When applying or supplementing plant material, soil or soil amendments, place temporary stockpiled material in existing planters or turf area away from watercourses, gutters and storm drain inlets.
 - L. Use sweeping and pick-up methods or vacuum all hardscape areas, including streets & gutters of all excess materials and debris. Do not wash these materials into the street, gutters or storm drains.
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Other Beneficial Tips & Techniques

1. Pollution Prevention.

- A. Keep site free of trash & debris. When doing routine landscape maintenance, pick-up and properly dispose of any trash, litter and other debris that may have accumulated in planters or other parts of the site to prevent them from entering the streets, gutters and storm drains.
- B. Consider pollution prevention measures at all times for improving pollution control. Implementation of pollution prevention measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures.

The following pollution prevention principles apply to most industries:

- Affirmative Procurement - Use alternative, safer, or recycled products.
- Redirect storm water flows away from areas of concern.
- Reduce use of water or use dry methods.
- Reduce storm water flow across facility site.
- Recycle and reuse waste products and waste flows.
- Move or cover potential pollution from storm water contact.
- Provide on-going employee training in pollution prevention.



For more information, please contact:

City of Laguna Niguel
27801 La Paz Road
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Public Works Department 949.362.4337
Community Development Department 949.362.4360
Orange County 24 hr Water Quality Hotline: 714.567.6363
www.ocwatersheds.com www.ci.laguna-niguel.ca.us