

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Within Mecklenburg County, including the City of Charlotte and other local municipalities, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything that is dumped or accidentally spills into a storm drain could negatively impact our local water quality.

The City of Charlotte and other municipalities have each adopted a Storm Water Ordinance. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.



VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT, DEPENDING ON THE LOCATION AND SEVERITY.

Storm Water System Basics



Following these basic principles will help ensure that your business is in compliance with regulations.

1. The **ONLY** thing that is allowed to enter a storm drain is **RAIN** water. Prevent any other materials from entering storm drains or surface waters.
2. In areas of immediate work, install pollution prevention BMPs (silt socks, silt fences, hay bales, etc.) prior to conducting drilling activities. (**SEE BACKSIDE**)

Directional Drilling Impacts on Water Quality

Sediment in the form of slurry, mud, or wastewater from directional drilling activities can have a number of impacts on our local water quality. Several reasons to be concerned about this issue include:

- ◆ Mud slurry may contain other additives such as, various polymers, soda ash, etc., that have impacts on the environment.
- ◆ Increased water treatment costs to community residents.
- ◆ Sediment can fill in creeks and lakes, which negatively impacts fish and biological habitat.



Horizontal Directional Drilling

Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs)



CONTAINMENT & RECOVERY

Collect all slurry and wastewater generated during the drilling process. Sediment / slurry left on roadways or in the storm drain system is considered a violation of the Storm Water Ordinance.

- ◆ Dig pits at entry and exit points, and install silt fencing to contain slurry and wastewater created during drilling.
- ◆ Use a vacuum truck or tanker to recover slurry from pits and seepages.
- ◆ Inspect work areas prior to leaving the site. Wastewater and slurry materials need to be properly removed.

STORAGE & DISPOSAL

Once collected at the work site, slurry must be properly stored, managed and disposed of in accordance with regulations.

- ◆ Some companies empty slurry into basins to facilitate dewatering and drying before final disposal at a landfill. A Construction Stormwater General Permit is required by DEQ (704-663-1699) for sites that disturb (grade/expose) greater than 1 acre.
- ◆ Some landfills will accept dried slurry. Contact the landfill to ask about their requirements first.

STORM DRAIN PROTECTION

Prior to conducting drilling work, protect storm drains in case pollutants escape the immediate work area.

- ◆ Silt fences, silt socks, silt bags, and hay bales are examples of measures that can be used in and around storm drains.
- ◆ Remember to remove all BMPs when work is complete.

SPILL CONTROL & OTHER BMPs

Be prepared for spills! Have oil dry, absorbent pads, brooms, and shovels on hand and easily accessible.

- ◆ Spill mats, absorbent booms, and storm drain covers can be used to block storm drains if a spill does occur.
- ◆ Train all employees upon hiring and hold refresher trainings annually.
- ◆ Post this BMP flyer where employees can see it.
- ◆ Report illicit discharges and illegal dumping by calling 311.