A-4: Outdoor Storage of Soil, Sand, and Other Erodible Materials

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary.

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to both permanent and temporary sites. Contact between outside bulk materials and stormwater can cause leaching and erosion of stored materials.

Required BMPs

- Cover and contain the stockpiled materials unless the material cannot wash into the stormwater drainage system or surface waters and cannot be blown away by the wind.
- Covers must be in place at all times when the stockpile is not in active use.
- Do not hose down the contained stockpile area to the stormwater drainage system.
- For stockpiles greater than 5 cubic yards of erodible or water-soluble materials—such as soil, road deicing salts, compost, unwashed sand and gravel, sawdust, and bark—and for outside storage areas for solid leachable materials—such as freshly treated lumber and metal products (excluding aluminum)—choose one or more of the following BMPs:
    - Store in a building or paved and bermed covered area;
    - Place temporary plastic sheeting (e.g., polyethylene, polypropylene, Hypalon, or equivalent) over the material;
    - Pave the area and install a drainage system. Place curbs or berms along the perimeter of the area to prevent the run-on of uncontaminated stormwater and to collect and convey all the runoff to treatment. Slope the paved area in a manner that minimizes the contact between stormwater and leachable materials (e.g., compost, logs, bark, wood chips);
    - For large uncovered stockpiles, implement containment practices at the perimeter of the site and at any storm drains as needed to prevent erosion and discharge from the stockpiled material off-site or to a storm drain. Ensure that no direct discharge of contaminated stormwater to storm drains exists without conveying runoff through an appropriate treatment BMP. Catch basin inserts are not appropriate treatment for compost or road de-icing salts.

Required Routine Maintenance

- Sweep paved surfaces to collect solid materials. Do not hose down area to the stormwater drainage system.
- Check covers over the stockpiles to ensure they are still functioning properly.

- Inspect and maintain catch basin inserts.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: fecal coliform bacteria, metals, nutrients, oxygen demanding substances, and sediment.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Catch Basin Insert
    - Containment
    - Covering
- *King County Surface Water Design Manual*, Appendix D: Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Standards (Erosion Control Practices)

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.