A-39: Roof Vents and Fugitive Emissions

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 processes that vent emissions to a roof and/or the accumulation of pollutants on a roof. Processes of special concern are stone cutting, metal grinding, spray painting, paint stripping, galvanizing, and electroplating. Pollutants from these processes may build up on roofs and may contaminate stormwater roof runoff.

Contact Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and/or the Washington State Department of Ecology for air pollution control regulations. If your activities are permitted by either of these agencies, then these requirements are supplemental.

Required BMPs

- Identify processes that are vented to the roof and may contribute pollutants. Pollutants of concern include and are not limited to:
    - metal dust
    - grease from food preparation
    - solvents
    - hydrocarbons
    - fines
    - stone dust
- Inspect around vents, pipes, and other surfaces for pollutant deposition. Properly clean up any deposited pollutants, ensuring they are not disposed of into the stormwater drainage system.
- Install appropriate source control measures such as air pollution control equipment (filters, scrubbers, and other treatment) and/or institute operational or process changes.
- If proper installation and maintenance of air pollution control equipment does not prevent pollutant fallout on your roof, additional treatment of the roof runoff may be necessary. Install/provide appropriate devices for roof runoff before it is discharged off-site. This may include approved water quality treatment BMPs or structural stormwater treatment systems.
- Consider instituting operational or process changes to reduce pollution.

Required Routine Maintenance

- Maintain air filters and pollution control equipment on a regular basis to ensure they are working properly. If you smell odors from outside the building, the pollution control equipment may need maintenance or evaluation.

- When cleaning deposited pollutants from roof tops, first clean using dry methods such as sweeping or vacuuming before using water.
- Collect the wash water and loose materials using a sump pump, wet vacuum, or similar device. Discharge the collected runoff to the sanitary sewer after obtaining permission from the local sewer authority or have a waste disposal company remove it.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: metals, oil and grease, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-11: Cleaning or Washing of Tools and Equipment
    - A-12: Cleaning or Washing of Food Service Areas and Equipment
    - A-14: Interior Washing Operations (Including Mobile Contractors)
    - A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Surfaces
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Disposal
    - Water Quality Treatment BMPs

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