# A-44: Dust Control for Commercial Operations

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 existing manufacturing and commercial operations as opposed to new construction or land development. Material handling activities may include concrete crushing, cement mixing, commercial composting, stone grinding, and wood milling.

## Required BMPs

- Sweep paved areas where dust and erodible materials accumulate. Use vacuum sweepers to minimize generation of airborne dust and for more efficient dust removal.
- Clean equipment and vehicles that leave the property to prevent dust and track out of material. Create a designated wash area to collect and properly dispose of the wash water. Never wash down equipment or vehicles to the stormwater drainage system or to surface waters.
- Train employees in the proper operating procedures to minimize dust accumulation.
- Chemical dust suppressants are commercially available for use on many types of emission sources. The use of motor oil as a dust suppressant is prohibited in Washington State (70.951 RCW).
- Note that not all dust suppressants are appropriate for use near storm drainage systems or surface waters.

## Supplemental BMPs

- Use dust filtration and collection systems such as bag house filters.
- Use water spray to flush dust accumulations to an approved treatment system or the sanitary sewer where available and allowed by the local sewer authority and the King County Industrial Waste Program.
- Use approved dust suppressants such as those listed in the *King County Surface Water Design Manual*, Appendix D: Erosion and Sediment Control Standards.
- When pH levels in stormwater rise above 8.5, the pH must be adjusted to the acceptable range of 6.5 to 8.5. Refer to the *King County Surface Water Design Manual*, Appendix D, Sections D.2.2.7 and D.2.2.8 for information on pH adjustment.

## Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: hydrocarbons—such as gasoline and diesel, metals, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets

  - Catch Basin Insert
  - Controlling and Collecting Contaminated Runoff
  - Water Quality Treatment BMPs
- Washington State Department of Ecology's *Methods for Dust* Control (Publication no. 96-433, July 2016), https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/96433.pdf.
- Contact Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and/or the Washington State Department of Ecology for air pollution control regulations.

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