A-53: Stone Cutting

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 the cutting and fabrication of stone, mineral and similar materials that will produce a fine dust from the activity.

In addition to the BMPs below, an Industrial Stormwater General Permit may be required by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Cutting and Fabrication BMPs

- Have spill cleanup materials nearby when cutting or fabricating.
- Protect nearby storm drains with a boom or other methods to prevent materials and wastewater from entering the stormwater drainage system.
- Never allow dust/particles, wastewater or debris to be transported offsite or to a stormwater drainage system.
- Avoid cutting or fabricating activities outside, especially if it's windy or raining.
- If dry cutting outdoors, a drop cloth or tarp must be used beneath the activity area to capture dust/particles and debris. Vacuum or sweep up the waste and dispose of it properly and regularly.
- Never hose down or wash cutting waste off of paved areas or drop cloths/tarps. Cleanup the accumulated waste using dry methods—such as sweeping or vacuuming.
- If washing down an area after dry methods were used, implement the required BMPs in A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops and Other Large Surfaces and A-31: Parking Lots, Driveways and Outside Storage Areas when applicable.
- If dry cutting indoors, prevent the buildup of dust/particles and debris, which can be tracked, blown or otherwise transported outside.

Wastewater BMPs

- Never discharge wastewater to ground or to the stormwater drainage system.
- If you have a wastewater pretreatment system that involves sediment settling, regularly clean out the settling tanks and properly store and dispose of the waste.
- Process water must be collected in a tank and filtered to remove all solids prior to disposing to a sanitary sewer.
- Wastewater generated from washing tools and equipment must be discharged to the sanitary sewer or be collected and taken offsite for proper disposal. The wastewater can not be discharged to ground or the stormwater drainage system even if cleaning chemicals were not used.

- An industrial waste discharge permit may be required by your local sanitary sewer operator for the disposal of treated wastewater to the sanitary sewer. In King County, please contact the Industrial Waste Program at (206)477-5300 or info.kciw@kingcounty.gov.

Additional Information

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-11: Cleaning or Washing of Tools and Equipment
    - A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Surfaces
    - A-29: Building Repair, Remodeling and Construction
    - A-31: Parking Lots, Driveways and Outside Storage Areas
    - A-44: Dust Control for Commercial Operations
    - A-51: Mobile Businesses and Vendors
- King County, Solid Waste Division, Industrial Waste Program, https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/waste-services/wastewater-treatment/sewer-system-services/industrial-waste
- Washington State Department of Ecology, Industrial Stormwater General Permit, https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/permits-certifications/stormwater-general-permits/industrial-stormwater-permit

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