Stormwater Requirements Overview

To protect the San Francisco Bay, as well as rivers and creeks, construction projects in the City of Berkeley are required to comply with the Alameda County Clean Water Program. The measures of the Clean Water Program, designed to protect water quality by minimizing land disturbances and impervious surfaces, encourage infiltration into landscape and direct runoff into vegetated areas.

What is needed to comply?
The specific requirements for your project will vary depending on the amount of impervious surface that will be created or replaced. Impervious surface prevents the land’s natural ability to absorb and infiltrate rainfall and includes pavement or coverings such as rooftops, walkways, patios, driveways, and parking lots. The Stormwater Requirements Checklists will assist with the planning and permitting process by helping to identify the pertinent stormwater requirements for your project.

All development projects, regardless of size, must implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing runoff during construction. Construction BMPs cover material storage, the cleanup of spills, equipment maintenance and other practices that will help keep dirt, debris, and other construction waste away from storm drains and creeks. Site design and source control measures to minimize stormwater runoff are also encouraged in all projects that create or replace impervious surface. For guidance on these measures, fact sheets are available at the Permit Service Center.

Required Submittals
Applicants for development projects, including single-family dwellings, which create or replace at least 2,500 ft² of impervious surface must complete one of the following Stormwater Requirements Checklists and submit it as part of obtaining zoning approval for a building permit application or as part of a zoning application such as a Use Permit.

C.3 and C.6 Stormwater Requirements Checklist: This Checklist is used for projects that create over 10,000 ft² of new/replaced impervious surface. It must also be used for projects with 5,000 ft² or more of new/replaced impervious surface that are one of the following Special Land Use Categories:

- Auto service facilities
- Retail gasoline outlets
- Restaurants
- Uncovered parking lots of at least 5,000 ft²

When required as described above, the C.3 and C.6 Stormwater Requirements Checklist must be completed in its entirety. Checklist completion requires that:

- All Site Design Measures (Section II.B.) are incorporated where applicable into development plans,
✓ Appropriate Source Control Measures (Section II.C.) are selected and documented in plans,
✓ Construction BMPs (Section II.D. and as detailed in handout) are practiced, and
✓ Low impact development (LID) treatment measures, such as infiltration, rainwater harvesting and re-use, evapotranspiration, and biotreatment (Sections II.E. and II.F.) are used as described in the Checklist.

If the development project disturbs more than one (1) acre of surface, or less than an acre but is part of a larger development plan, the applicant must:
✓ Complete all sections and requirements of the C.3 and C.6 Stormwater Requirements Checklist
✓ Obtain a State General Construction Permit and submit a copy of the Notice of Intent to the City when obtaining zoning permits
✓ Submit a copy of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (available from the State Water Resource Control Board) that is required by the State General Construction Permit to the City prior to issuance of a building permit

**C.3.i Stormwater Requirements Checklist**: Smaller projects that create and/or replace 2,500 to 10,000 ft\(^2\) of impervious surface (other than Special Land Use Categories listed above) should use this Checklist. No checklist is required for work within an existing footprint such as:
- Routine maintenance or repair projects such as exterior wall surface replacement or re-roofing that does not change the roof shape and slope (which would affect drainage),
- Interior remodeling projects, or
- Pavement resurfacing (pavement replacement is subject to the requirements).

The **C.3.i Stormwater Requirements Checklist** must be completed in its entirety and specifies that:
✓ At least one Site Design Measure (labeled a-f in Section II.A.) be incorporated into development plans,
✓ Source Control Measures (Section II.B.) are used to the maximum extent possible, and
✓ Construction BMPs (Section II.C. and as detailed in handout) are practiced.

**Other Stormwater Requirements**
All projects with new landscape area of 500 ft\(^2\) or more, or renovated landscape of 2,500 ft\(^2\) or more, must also comply with the State Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Section 31 Water Service Regulation for Outdoor Water Use, and all applicable measures in the Bay Friendly Basics checklist.
See the City of Berkeley’s webpage on Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance for more information. Questions about State WELO requirements, EBMUD Section 31, and Bay Friendly Basics should be directed to the City’s consulting Urban Forester, Darya Barar, at (925) 484-0211 or dbarar@bartlett.com.

**Questions**
Questions about the Stormwater Requirements Checklist or other stormwater issues or requirements should be directed to the Department of Public Works at (510) 981-6409 or VChen@cityofberkeley.info.
City of Berkeley's Pollution Prevention - It's Part of the Plan

Make sure your crews and subs do the job right!

Runoff from streams and other paved areas is a major source of pollution and damage to creeks and the San Francisco Bay. Construction activities can directly affect the health of creeks and the Bay unless contractors and crews plan ahead to keep dirt, debris, and other construction waste away from storm drains and local creeks. Following these guidelines and the project specifications will ensure your compliance with City of Berkeley requirements.

Materials storage & spill cleanup

Nonhazardous materials management

- Store, city, and similar materials must be stored at least 15 ft. (5 m) from storm drains.
- All construction materials must be covered with tarpaulin or contained with a perimeter barrier during wet weather or when rain is anticipated or when air temperatures are below 45°F for at least 48 hours.
- Use Viking or similar absorbent or other storm water silt control devices. Do not leave uncovered areas or work areas wet.
- Recycle all asphalt, concrete, and aggregate-base materials from demolition activities.
- Comply with City of Berkeley Ordinances for the recycling of construction materials, wood, glass, paper, etc.
- Check rakes regularly for leaves and to make sure they are not overflowing. Rakes may replace lacking drainage properly.
- Cover all dumpsters with a tarp to the end of every work day or during wet weather.

Hazardous materials management

- Label all hazardous materials and hazardous waste words (such as pesticides, paint, thinners, solvents, fuel, oil, and gasoline) and use appropriate personal protective equipment, and locate them at the end of every work day or during wet weather or when rain is forecast.
- Follow manufacturer’s application instructions for hazardous materials and be careful to use more than necessary. Do not apply additional materials when rain is forecast.

Spill prevention and control

- Keep a supply of clean up materials (tarpaulin, sawdust, etc.) available at the construction site at all times.
- When spills or leaks occur, retrieve them immediately and be prepared to prevent leaks and spills from reaching the gutter, street, or storm drains.
- Never wash spill materials into a gutter, street, storm drain, or catch basin.

Environmental and storage permits

- Ensure all environmental and storage permits are up to date and current.

Architectural Copper

If your project contains architectural copper, be sure to follow the specifications outlined in the Hazardous Materials Requirements for Architectural Copper available at the lobby of the Permit Service Center.

Dewatering operations

- Excavate and manage all materials within the site, and all materials that discharge from the site. Runoff from the site shall be directed away from all storm drains or soil extremely sensitive.
- Keep water at the base of all hazardous areas.

Concrete, grout, and mortar storage & waste disposal

- Store wastes, grout, and mortar under covers, on pallets, and away from drainageways. These materials must not contain such a storm drains.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after the concrete, grout, or mortar is poured before sealing the material to ensure that it will not become dislodged from the drainageway or enter any other storm drain or sewer.
- Collect and hold water from runoff prior to application to aggregate or silt the appropriate disposal site.

Earthwork & contaminated soils

- Keep excavated fill on site where it will not foul the street.
- Trench to drain trench should be placed on site, out of the street.
- Use filter, oil, dirt, or other controls measures to minimize the flow of cut off the site.

Painting

- Never paint surface of an area prior to closing it.
- Paint area to provide base coat before applying base coat, primer, or emulsion.

Paving/asphalt work

- Never allow stains or spills to remain unattended.
- Never apply asphalt or similar materials on wet asphalt.

Concrete, mortar, and gravel storage & waste disposal

- Store all concrete, gravel, and similar materials under covers, on pallets, and away from drainageways. These materials must not contain such a storm drains.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after the concrete or gravel is poured before sealing the material to ensure that it will not become dislodged from the drainageway or enter any other storm drain or sewer.
- Collect and hold water from runoff prior to application to aggregate or silt the appropriate disposal site.

Landscape Materials

- Compost, mulch, and some non-porous artificial landscape materials (such as recycled rubber, compost, rock, etc.) may contain no water when run at 45°F. These materials may contain no water when run at 45°F. Prevent water from running into storm drains, storm sewers, or streets. Collect and hold water in the catch basin, or cover the remaining.

Storm drain polluters may be liable for fines of $10,000 or more per day!