



## Engineering Division

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## **STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION AT PUBLIC EVENTS**

Sebastopol's calendar is busy all year with a wide variety of community events in our City parks and public spaces, including festivals, concerts, outdoor markets, holiday and other gatherings.

If you are organizing one of these events, it is important that you make sure that Best Management Practices are put in place to prevent stormwater pollution during your event. Remember, in any outdoor area, improper practices such as washing or storage of materials or improper disposal of waste materials into the storm drain system, are sources of storm water pollution. Rainfall and runoff can be contaminated by materials spilled, leaked, or mislaid. Pollutants of concern at events where food is produced or sold, include sediment, oil and grease, organic materials and bacteria, and toxics such as cleaning products.

You should have a plan to prevent Storm Water Pollution from your event by following Best Management Practices (BMPs) and make sure that all participants and vendors are aware of the importance of protecting our watershed by eliminating improper discharges to storm drains.

Here are some ways to assure that pollution from your event does not reach local waterways.

### **STORAGE (CONTAINERS)**

- ◆ Use non-corrosive, non-leaking, durable containers. Always use tightly sealed containers.
- ◆ Inspect the external condition of containers. Look for leaks, corrosion, or other damage.
- ◆ Store containers on an impervious surface or cover with weighted tarps or awnings.

### **WASTE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL**

- ◆ Always contain waste in dumpsters, drums, or bags. Double bag leaky rubbish.
- ◆ Store trash and other pollutant materials in a manner that prevents contact with rain (in a container with a closed lid or under cover).
- ◆ Store all organic wastes (including food) under cover on an impervious surface until transfer to a landfill or composting facility.

### **PREVENT SPILLS AND UNLAWFUL DISCHARGES TO THE STORM DRAIN SYSTEM**

- ◆ Never allow vendors or other participants to dump any materials into the storm drain system. This includes water, melted ice or 'leftovers' from food storage or displays.
- ◆ Sweep-up trash and debris to prevent it from being washed into the storm drain when it rains.
- ◆ Never wash down areas where spills have occurred by flushing with water into the street or storm drain. Use "dry spill cleanup" methods instead.
- ◆ Segregate and dispose of all hazardous waste as per state law.
- ◆ Clean up all spills immediately upon discovery.

### **TRAINING**

- ◆ Inform vendors and participants of storm water pollution sources and prevention.
- ◆ Instruct employees in proper filling and transfer procedures as well as in waste control and disposal.

**◆ REMEMBER, ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!**