

Who is H₂OC?

H₂OC is YOU! H₂OC is also a cooperative stormwater program which includes all 34 cities in Orange County, the County of Orange, and Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD). Clean and healthy beaches, creeks, rivers, bays, wetlands, and ocean are important to Orange County. H₂OC provides resources to residents and businesses to encourage personal action and prevent polluted runoff from entering our waterways.

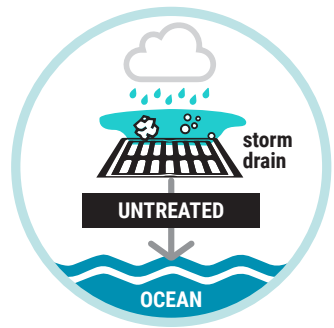
WATER POLLUTION AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

YOU ARE THE SOLUTION TO RUNOFF POLLUTION

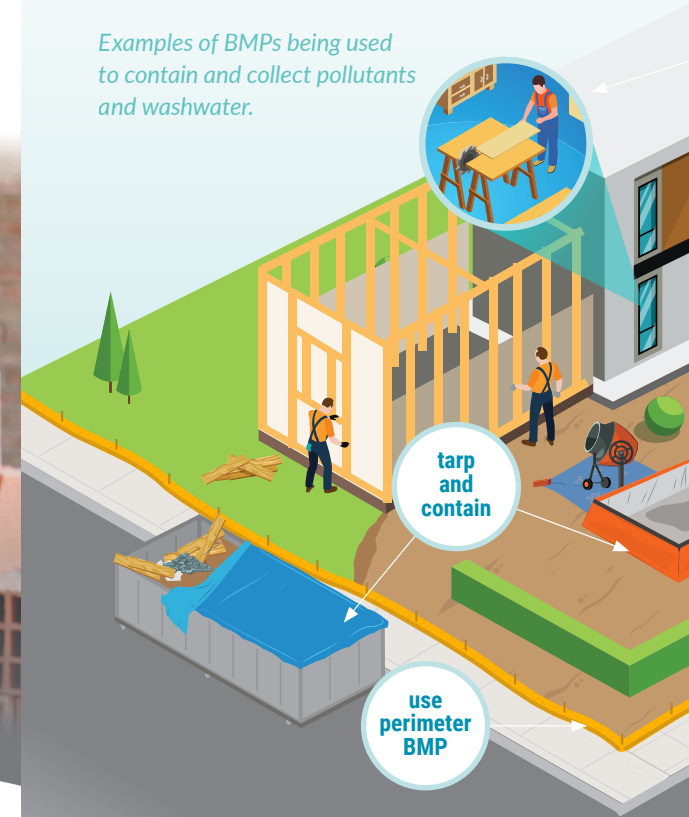
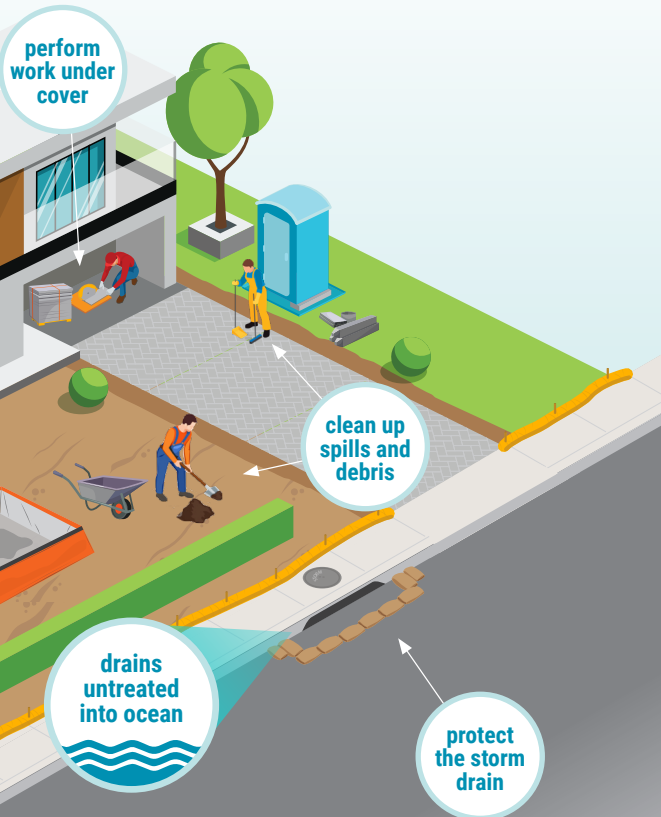
How is Water Quality Affected By Construction Projects?

Construction projects involve a variety of materials, which can become pollutants if not managed properly. These can include concrete, dirt, fertilizer, grout, metals, mortar, oil, organic debris, paint, and wood. If not properly managed, these pollutants can be transported to Orange County's creeks, rivers, and ocean through our storm drain system.

Examples of BMPs being used to contain and collect pollutants and washwater.



Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated or cleaned before entering our waterways and should never contain any pollutants.



Join Us

Visit h2oc.org to learn more about runoff, water pollution, and how you can be the solution to runoff pollution and protect our water resources!

Contact

📞 **24-hour Pollution Reporting Hotline:**
877-89-SPILL (877-897-7455)

📱 **24-hour Pollution Reporting Website:**
myOCeServices.ocgov.com

For emergencies, dial 911

There are several criteria that washwater must meet before it can be discharged to landscaped areas or the sanitary sewer system. Visit h2oc.org for more information.

*oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste/business-hazardous-waste-referrals



You can protect water quality by using and deploying BMPs appropriate to your construction needs.

← Learn more inside



By law, construction projects are required to implement best management practices (BMPs) to prevent runoff pollution.

Best Management Practices for Construction Projects

Implement best management practices (BMPs) to be in compliance and avoid enforcement actions:



✓ Plan and Prevent

- ✓ Locate and protect all nearby storm drain inlets using gravel bags before starting your project.
- ✓ When possible, plan and complete projects when rain is not predicted.
- ✓ Display contact information for when you're not at the project site in case of a spill or leak.
- ✓ Have appropriate waste receptacles.
- ✓ Obtain required permits.

✓ Contain

- ✓ Store and contain all materials under secured cover, such as tarps or plastic sheets.
- ✓ Never store materials near drains; all area drains flow to the storm drain system and can reach local waterways.
- ✓ Cut tiles and insulation foam indoors to prevent dust, debris, and sediment from flowing into the storm drain system.
- ✓ No concrete, dirt, mortar, paint, stucco, or other materials can be washed into the street, gutter, or storm drain.

✓ Collect

- ✓ Use dry cleanup methods like sweeping or vacuuming.
- ✓ Use berms and portable containment areas to effectively contain wastewater and pollutants.
- ✓ Materials or waste stored in the street, such as a dumpster, may require an encroachment permit. Contact your local city.
- ✓ Pump cement washwater back into cement mixers or allow it to evaporate in a washout basin.

✓ Dispose

- ✓ Recycle debris through a local construction and demolition recycling company.
- ✓ If it's a small amount, dispose of dry concrete, grout, or mortar in the trash.
- ✓ Hazardous waste must be collected and disposed of by a licensed disposal company.*
- ✓ For spills on dirt areas, allow time for soil to dry, then dig up and dispose of dry soil in the trash.

What Pollutants Are Generated by Construction Projects?



Home Projects

During home renovation projects, pollutants generated can include concrete, mortar, dust, tile, grout, organic debris, trash, and dirt.



Building Additions

While completing building additions, pollutants generated can include concrete, lumber, metals, drywall mud, dust, organic debris, trash, and dirt.



Landscaping Projects

When performing landscape projects, pollutants generated can include organic debris, trash, dirt, fertilizers, and pesticides.