Preventing Pollution

Keep all paint or chemical containers closed when inactive, after work, or during rain.

Contain all concrete washouts. A dirt berm lined with plastic is sufficient.

Conduct periodic inspections to be sure all BMPs are functioning properly and haven’t been compromised.

Check BMPs and inlets after large rain events. Check in with your stormwater contact with any questions.

Repair or replace ineffective or damaged BMPs.

Cover piles of dirt or sand after use to reduce erosion.

Properly store and dispose of wastes.

Train employees and subcontractors about stormwater requirements.

Stabilize your site before filing for a Notice of Termination (NOT).
Sediment is the biggest pollutant:

- Protect inlets to the storm drain system and dry wells from soil and chemicals.
- Minimize erosion and sedimentation with Best Management Practices (BMPs) like straw wattles, filter socks, drainage swales, silt fences, etc.
- Stabilize inactive soil or sand piles with vegetation, a tarp, or perimeter control.
- Lay riprap at exits of site to reduce track out, and sweep up track out when it occurs.
- Maintain your BMPs. They should be checked regularly for integrity.
- Put a lid on it! Cover paints and chemicals when not in use.

What’s wrong with a little dirt?

Sediment is the most common pollutant from construction activities.

Soil can clog inlets and pipes, causing flooding, or increase turbidity or impede flow of streams.

When it rains, dirt tracked onto roadways flows into inlets.

The more vegetative cover, the better chances of keeping soil on your site! So minimize disturbed areas and phase construction activities.

Failing BMPs are cause for a Notice of Violation (NOV)!

Release of pollutants to the City MS4 is a violation of City code.

Let’s talk paperwork.

Permits: All construction must follow City Code 32C. Projects disturbing one or more acres must also obtain coverage under the Arizona Construction General Permit (CGP). The City of Phoenix will not issue a Grading and Drainage permit without a state authorization number.

Plan: Chapter 32C requires a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and the CGP requires a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Preliminary Meeting: Review SWMP and/or SWPPP and permit, along with Grading and Drainage plan at site.

Entrance: The CGP requires SWPPP, permit, and contact information be openly displayed at the main entrance of the site.

Field Report: A qualified inspector must inspect the site regularly and documentation is required for the CGP. City inspectors may also inspect site.

BMPs: They must be installed and maintained per site plan and SWMP/SWPPP.

Control Measures: Ensure construction of control measures per approved plan (e.g. diversion dikes, drainage swales, silt fences, sediment traps, gravel filter berms, storm drain inlet protection, etc.).

Final: After completion of construction and final stabilization of exposed soil, a Notice of Termination (NOT) is required for CGP.