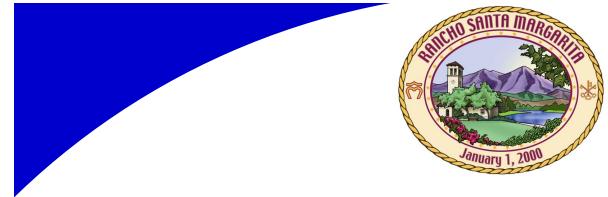




Use proper equipment for landscaping services. Contact your local hardware or gardening stores for available tools and materials for mobile landscapers including vacuum pumps, mats, sand or gravel bags, wattles, etc.



STORM WATER PROGRAM

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LANDSCAPING SERVICES



City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Phone: 949.635.1800
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www.cityofrsm.org



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Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Best Management Practices for Landscapers

This brochure provides information about using best management practices (BMPs) for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wash water generated from mobile landscaping.

Why should we be concerned with landscaping wash water discharge?

Landscaping and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to ocean pollution. Soils, yard wastes, overwatering and garden chemicals become part of the the urban runoff mix that finds its way through the streets, gutters, and storm drains before entering the ocean. The implementation of the proper BMP's is required for compliance with State and local regulations which were developed to prevent water pollution and protect the public health.

Please note that it is unlawful for wash water or other non-storm water, generated by landscapers, to enter storm drains. Landscapers that do not prevent waste water from entering the storm drain systems are subject to Administrative Citations and/or fines.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Mobile landscapers must use the following BMPs to comply with the City's water quality requirements and water pollution prevention:

- Minimize water use. Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- Sweep wash area to remove debris, but do not blow or rake leaves into the street, gutter or storm drains.
- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers and do not over-fertilize.
- Protect downstream storm drain inlet so that wash water does not enter storm drain. Protection must be placed before starting the washing process and removed before you leave the site.
- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under traps or secured plastic sheeting.

Options for wash water management

- **Preferred Option:** Zero discharge or closed-loop recycled water
- **Second Option:** Discharge into municipal sewer system including residential sewer cleanout, utility sink or toilet, etc. and precautions must be taken to prevent any heavy debris, hazardous materials or anything that can clog sink or toilet. Wash water may also be taken off site for proper disposal at your home or business.

If you would like further information about water quality pollution prevention, please contact the Public Works Department at (949) 635-1800 or visit our website at www.cityofrsm.org. Thank you for your effort in helping to improve the quality of our environment.