

A5.2 Building Repair, Remodeling, Painting, and Construction

Description of Pollutant Sources: This activity refers to activities associated with construction of buildings and other structures, remodeling of existing buildings and houses, and general exterior building repair work. Concrete pouring is covered under **A3.2 Concrete Pouring and Asphalt Application at Temporary Sites.**

Pollutants of concern include toxic hydrocarbons, toxic organics, suspended solids, heavy metals, pH, oils, and greases.

Pollutant Control Approach: Employees must be educated about the need to control site activities. Control leaks, spills, and loose material. Utilize good housekeeping practices.

Required BMPs

The following BMPs or equivalent measures are required of all businesses engaged in building repair, remodeling, painting, or construction:

- Identify, remove and properly dispose of hazardous substances from the building before beginning repairing or remodeling activities that could expose them to stormwater. Such substances could include PCBs, asbestos, lead paint, mercury switches, and electronic waste.
- Employees must be educated about the need to control site activities to prevent stormwater pollution, and also trained in spill cleanup procedures.
- Spill cleanup materials, appropriate to the chemicals being used on site, must be available at the work site at all times.
- The work site must be cleaned up at the end of each workday, with materials such as solvents put away indoors or covered and secured so that vandals will not have access to them.
- The area must be swept daily to collect loose litter, paint chips, grit, and dirt.
- Absolutely no substance can be dumped on pavement, on the ground, or in or toward storm drains, regardless of its content, unless it is clean water only.
- For wood treating activities drop cloths must be placed where space and access permit before the work begins. Additional drip pans must be used in areas where drips are likely to occur that cannot be protected with a drop cloth.

- Ground or drop cloths must be used underneath scraping, sandblasting work. Ground cloths, buckets, or tubs must also be used anywhere that work materials are laid down.
- Incidental cleaning of paint brushes and other tools that are covered with water-based paints must be cleaned in sinks connected to sanitary sewers or in portable containers that can subsequently be dumped into a sanitary sewer drain. Brushes and tools covered with non-water-based finishes or other materials must be cleaned in a manner that enables collection of used solvents for recycling or proper disposal and cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer. See BMP S.2 in Chapter 5 for disposal options.
- Storm drain covers or similarly effective devices must be used if dust, grit, washwater, or other pollutants may escape the work area. This is particularly necessary on rainy days. The cover or containment device shall be placed over the storm drain at the beginning of the workday, and accumulated dirty runoff and solids must be collected and disposed of before removing the cover at the end of the day.
- Refer to Activity A1.3 Washing and Steam Cleaning Vehicles/Equipment/Building Structures for best management practices associated with power washing buildings.

Suggested BMPs

The following BMPs are not required, but can provide additional pollution protection:

- Recycle materials whenever possible.
- Light spraying of water on the work site can control some of the dust and grit that can blow away. Oils must never be used for dust control. Never spray to the point of runoff from the site.
- Activities such as tool cleaning should occur over a ground cloth or within a containment device such as a tub.
- Consider using filtered vacuuming to collect waste that may be hard to sweep, such as dust on a drop cloth.
- If conducting work in wet weather conditions, consider setting up temporary cover when scraping or pressure-washing lead based paint.