BMP: Covering



OBJECTIVES

- Manufacturing
- Material Handling
- E Vehicle Maintenance
- Construction
- Commercial Activities
- Roadways
 - Waste Containment
- Housekeeping Practices



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DESCRIPTION:

Covering is the partial or total physical enclosure of materials, equipment, process operations, or activities. Covering certain areas or activities prevents stormwater from coming into contact with potential pollutants and reduces material loss from wind blowing. Tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, roofs, buildings, and other enclosures are examples of covering that are effective in preventing stormwater contamination. Covering can be temporary or permanent.

APPROACH:

- Covering is appropriate for outdoor material storage piles (e.g., stockpiles of dry materials, gravel, sand, compost, sawdust, wood chips, and de-icing salt) as well as areas where liquids and solids in containers are stored or transferred.
- While it may be too expensive to cover all industrial activities, cover all highrisk areas first (e.g., chemical preparation areas, vehicle maintenance areas, and areas where salts are stored), then according to budget cover the rest of the materials.
- Evaluate the strength and longevity of the covering, as well as its compatibility with the material or activity being enclosed.
- When designing an enclosure, consider access to materials, their handling, and transfer.
- Materials that pose environmental and safety dangers require special ventilation and temperature considerations.
- Covering alone may not protect the materials. When designing, consider placing materials on an elevated, impermeable surface or build curbing around the outside of the materials to prevent problems from runon of uncontaminated stormwater from adjacent areas.
- Anchor all coverings with stakes, tie-down ropes, large rocks, tires or other easily available heavy objects.

LIMITATIONS:

- Requires frequent inspection.
- May pose health or safety problems if enclosure is built over certain activities.

MAINTENANCE:

Frequently inspect coverings for rips, holes and general wear.

TARGETED POLLUTANTS

- Sediment
- Nutrients
- Heavy Metals
- Toxic Materials
- Oxygen Demanding Substance
- Oil & Grease
- E Floatable Materials
- Bacteria & Viruses
- High Impact
- Medium Impact
- □ Low or Unknown Impact

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Capital Costs
- O&M Costs
- Maintenance
- □ Training
- High
- Medium
- □ Low