

WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION INSPECTIONS



frequently asked QUESTIONS

1 Q: **What are water pollution prevention inspections?**

A: The City of Fountain Valley's (City) Water Pollution Prevention Inspection Program was created to help your facility prevent water pollution.

For the purpose of compliance with federal guidelines, the City must inspect your facility to ensure that your business operations do not contribute to water pollution.

2 Q: **Are these inspections required?**

A: Yes. Inspections are required to comply with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. R8-2014-0002 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618030) under federal EPA regulations.

3 Q: **How can I prepare for these inspections?**

A: City inspectors may stop by your facility unannounced. To prepare for these inspections, make sure your facility maintains good housekeeping practices on a regular basis by dry-sweeping outdoor areas to remove and dispose trash and sediment.

Part of the inspection process includes verification that your facility's stormwater prevention devices/BMPs (see Question #5) are maintained at least once per year. To ensure that these devices are maintained, a "Water Pollution Prevention Maintenance Certification Form" is provided to your facility annually. Please complete and return the form prior to its due date for compliance with federal regulations. All maintenance records (invoices, receipts, photos, reports, etc.) must be sent in with the completed form, and kept at your site for at least three (3) years. **Please provide both before and after photos** of BMP maintenance.

4 Q: **How often will my facility be inspected?**

A: Routine inspections are performed annually; however, if violations are found, your facility will be re-inspected weekly until all violations are corrected.

5 Q: **What are stormwater pollution prevention devices (BMPs)?**

A: Stormwater pollution prevention devices are technically known as "Best Management Practices", or BMPs. BMPs are treatment systems or devices that help prevent or treat stormwater pollution. Typical BMPs that may be found at your facility include catch basin inserts, clarifiers, trench drains, porous pavement, wash racks, detention basins, swales and other systems/devices (see Question #3).

6 Q: **What happens if I don't comply?**

A: As a regulatory agency, the City has the authority to impose fines and initiate state and federal investigations upon non-compliant facilities. However, the City has taken an approach of education and cooperation with the facilities, and can assist the non-compliant facility to gain compliance with the Permit.

If in the event that the facility does not make reasonable efforts to correct violations, it will be subject to enforcement actions. These enforcement actions may include fines ranging from \$100-\$3,000 per violation/per day until the facility is in compliance.

7 Q: **What if I want to do more?**

A: The City will provide a *FREE* site assessment and recommend voluntary actions that would reduce pollution. For more information, or to schedule a free site assessment, please contact Environmental Services at (714) 593-4441. Please post this where it can be read by employees to educate them on pollution prevention practices.

Your business is the responsible party for maintaining your site's stormwater pollution prevention BMPs. If not



properly designed and then **managed/maintained**, these systems could be sources of pollutants and could become a nuisance and/or cause the spreading of surface water pollution, and those treatment systems with a hydraulic connection to groundwater (e.g., detention basins, infiltration systems, constructed wetlands, etc.) could be sources of groundwater pollution. BMPs could create a nuisance and/or habitat for vectors (e.g., mosquitoes and rodents).

Please check your site's BMPs for damage and any repairs needed. Servicing of some BMPs requires the assistance of a company specializing in this type of work.



Example of in ground BMPs that may be present.

Surface Drain Maintenance Procedures



Step 1. Remove grates to gain access to filter/hydrocarbon boom. **Take photos** throughout maintenance procedure.



Step 2. Remove skimmer tray, vacuum out debris, and dispose in trash.



Step 3. Remove old hydrocarbon boom and replace with a new boom.



Step 4. Replace skimmer tray inside filter and replace grates over the filters.

IMPORTANT: Please provide photos taken of your BMPs both before they have been serviced, and then after, and ensure a date stamp is provided (see above). Provide these photos with your completed maintenance form.