

A-28: Demolition of Buildings

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to the removal of existing buildings and other structures by controlled explosions, wrecking balls or other methods, and subsequent clearing of the rubble.

Potential pollutants can include but are not limited to metals, nutrients, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.

BMPs are required by King County Water Quality Code (KCC 9.12). If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs

- Train employees about the need to control site activities to prevent stormwater pollution, and train them in spill cleanup procedures
- Protect the stormwater drainage system from dirty runoff and loose particles by placing catch basin covers, or a similarly effective containment device, on all nearby storm drains.
 - Place the covers (or devices) on the storm drains at the beginning of the workday.
 - Inspect daily and maintain the covers (or devices) to ensure they are working correctly.
 - At the end of each workday, collect and properly dispose of the accumulated materials before removing the covers (or devices).
 - Use dikes, berms, or other methods to protect natural drainage paths from dirty runoff if storm drains are not present.
- Remove all covers and devices when the job is completed.
- Cover waste container and dumpsters and ensure they are not leaking.
- Sweep surrounding streets, sidewalks, driveways, and other paved surfaces as needed and at the end of the workday to collect loose debris and garbage. Properly dispose of collected debris and garbage. Do not hose down these areas to the stormwater drainage system.
- Handle and dispose of all waste materials and demolition debris in a manner that does not cause contamination of stormwater.
- Control windblown dust and fine materials by applying water or dust suppression products, avoiding excessive application to prevent runoff. Do not use oils for dust control.

Supplemental BMPs

- Construct a screen to prevent stray building materials and dust from escaping the area during demolition. Size and orient the screen to capture windblown materials and contain them onsite.
- When feasible, schedule demolition to take place at a dry time of the year to prevent stormwater runoff from the demolition-site.

Additional Information

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
 - [Catch Basin Insert](#)
- [King County Surface Water Design Manual](#), Appendix D: Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Standards

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.