

Covering

Covering potential pollutant-generating activities and materials is one of the most effective ways to prevent stormwater contamination. All of the options must be combined with a method to prevent run-on of stormwater into piles and runoff of any liquids that might leave the pile. See the [Containment](#) information sheet for more information.

The first step is reviewing what materials are stored outside and what activities are conducted outside that could cause pollutants to get on the ground.

1. Does the activity need to be conducted outside? Does the material need to be stored outside? Is there a suitable indoor location for these activities?
2. How often does the activity occur?
3. How often is the material used?
4. Can any of the material or equipment be removed if it is no longer needed?
5. Is it feasible to tarp materials or is a permanent structure needed?

Tarps

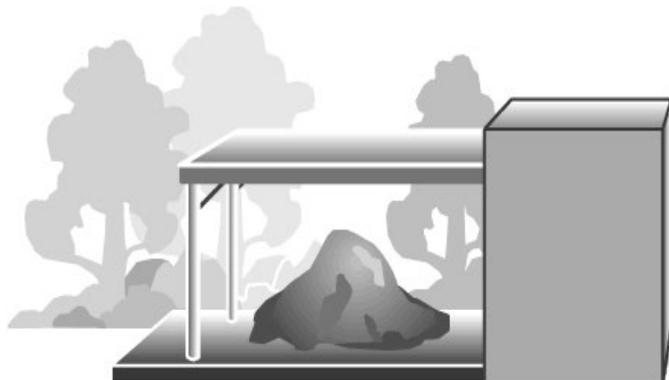


Many materials, such as stockpiles of erodible materials or storage of drums, can be covered with a heavy plastic tarp made of impermeable material. Weights such as bricks, tires, or sandbags must be used to anchor the cover in place. Care should be taken to ensure that the tarp covers the stored materials completely and that stormwater does not penetrate the cover. If several tarps are used to form a cover, they should be tethered together or overlapped. If necessary, pins or stakes should be used to anchor the tarps to the ground. The tarp/cover will be easier to keep in place and

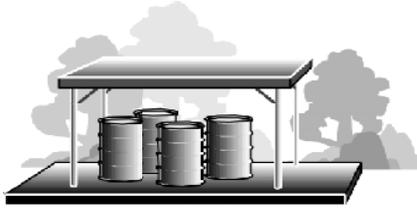
will last longer if some form of wind protection is used or stockpiles are located in areas protected from the wind. The tarps must be in place when the material is not being used and inspected weekly to ensure that no holes or gaps are present.

Roofs & Awnings

The other option for covering is a roof. The roof cover option used depends on the site layout, available space, affordability, and limitations imposed by other regulations. The area of the roof should be sufficient to keep the contents underneath dry. The storage/activity area must be designed to prevent stormwater run-on into the covered area.



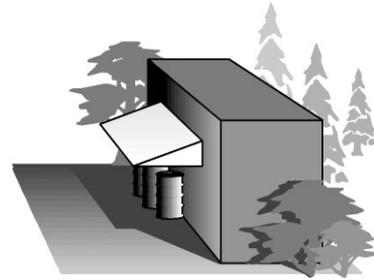
Lean-To Structure



Stand-Alone

Permanent structures may require a permit and must comply with all applicable building and fire codes. Contact the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review for information on permits and code requirements for a roof structure.

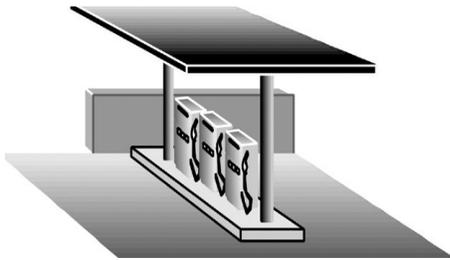
Another option for covering is to use an overhanging awning large enough to prevent precipitation from reaching the contents underneath. This does not include awnings already in place over a public right-of-way such as a sidewalk in front of a store, as this area is not suitable for storage or business activities. Many of the building permit, fire code, and zoning code requirements mentioned above apply to these structures.



Overhanging Awning

Storage Sheds

There are also numerous prefabricated storage sheds that may be effective. Before purchasing these structures, ensure they meet applicable building and fire codes.



Island-Type Overhanging Roof

Fueling Operations

Activities such as fueling operations must be covered by an island-type roof. This roof is supported by columns along the center of the structure rather than at the corners, allowing vehicular traffic underneath while still providing protection from precipitation. Refer to BMP Activity Sheet A-17: Stationary Fueling Operations for requirements.

Additional Information

King County Department of Local Services, Permitting Division

Land Use, Fire Code, and Building Code Requirements

(206) 296-6600

www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits

King County Stormwater Services

(206) 477-4811

www.kingcounty.gov/stormwater

King County Surface Water Design Manual

www.kingcounty.gov/swdm

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