



best management practices for water resource protection

Stormwater Drains

The best way to manage the quality of stormwater runoff is to minimize its contact with contaminants.

Work areas, product or waste storage and handling areas, and parking lots all require special attention to prevent contamination of stormwater.

Storm drains in the Cayman Islands are vertical boreholes that discharge at a depth of 20 to 100 feet below the ground’s surface, into groundwater, which eventually mixes with our near-shore waters. Storm drains are fitted with catch basins designed to collect debris and sediments to prevent clogging of the drain. To be effective, catch basins must be periodically cleaned out to remove the accumulated grit and debris. Catch basins do not protect against liquid/dissolved contaminants; therefore, it is critical that stormwater does not runoff over areas with spills, products or wastes and that storm drains are never used for disposal of any liquids other than rain.



Best Management Practices

General:

- ✓ Train all staff in Best Management Practices and require that the Practices be followed.
- ✓ Conduct activities with the potential to pollute stormwater; e.g., repairs, material or waste storage and handling, in areas protected from the rain.
- ✓ Where permanent structures are not feasible, non-structural covers such as tarps can be effective in protecting stored materials from contact with stormwater.
- ✓ Do not direct equipment wash water directly to a storm drain. Wash-water must first pass through a properly sized and maintained oil/grit interceptor and cannot contain any hazardous materials.

Spill Control:

- ✓ Prevent leaks and spills through proper storage, handling and transfer of materials.
- ✓ Clean up any spills promptly, without using water whenever possible. Spills of non-hazardous materials can be cleaned up with rags or paper toweling, or with absorbent material such as sand, kitty litter, or oil absorbing pads (where applicable) for larger spills. Sweep up and dispose of the used absorbent material in the solid waste bin.
- ✓ In the event of a hazardous spill, contact 911 and block the storm drain with a mat or berm, if safe to do so.



Catch Basin Maintenance:

- ✓ Before the wet weather season and after the first heavy rains: remove accumulated grit and debris and place it in the solid waste bin.
- ✓ Consider fitting your storm drains with filter inserts for added protection.



Source: <http://www.integrityabsorbents.com>