

Winter 2009

Best Management Practices For Managing Salt and Sand Piles and Stormwater

The quality of our surface waters in Vermont are continually at risk as development and the associated sources of pollution grow. The single largest stormwater impact to our streams, rivers and lakes is sediment.

Consider the impact of your facility and the surrounding yard. By taking steps to minimize the amount of sediment running off your site, you can ensure Vermont's water resources are here for future generations of boaters, anglers and other recreational enthusiasts. Although straight salt is usually stored undercover and is less of an issue, salt/sand mixes, gravel piles, and other aggregate piles are often

stored in the open and have a greater potential for discharge.

A good way to approach stormwater management at your facility is to divide the outside grounds surrounding your facility into sections. It is often easier to address smaller sections individually rather than a single large area. Keep in mind that a little work now may help in the long run in dealing with stormwater at your site.

Some general BMPs for stormwater management include:

- Take notice of areas where large concentrated amounts of sand and sediment are washing off your yard.
- Direct stormwater to discharge in sheet flow to vegetated and grassy areas rather than channel flow to one or a few discharge points.
- Use methods (like the grading of the yard) to slow discharge waters and break up the flow of water. This can help reduce the amount of sediment and other pollutants from washing offsite.
- Use stone check dams, berms, and other diversionary obstacles in areas where you have concentrated stormwater flow.
- Cover outdoor storage piles and materials to prevent contact with stormwater. Hang a shovel near the door to avoid material from building up outside the shed.
- Push and dump snow in areas away from surface waters. Snow piles contain large amounts of sand, sediment and general road trash which should not end up in surface waters.
- Maintain access around all of your piles. If you keep a defined boundary around your piles, it is much less likely they will creep over time. Over time, sand piles often end up backed up against a stream or river where it becomes very difficult to avoid discharges.

Best Management Practices For the Managing Street Sweepings and Catch Basin Cleanings

Both street sweepings and catch basin cleanings are eligible for a Categorical Disposal Certification. This is a five year certification to bury these materials on your property or in a specific location once you have met the criteria laid out in the Solid Waste Management Rules dated June, 2006. Please call John Daly at the Environmental Assistance Office (800-974-9559 #3) for additional information.

Some General BMPs for Street Sweepings include:

- Store and manage street sweepings separate from catch basin cleanings. These two solid waste streams have different management requirements and should be kept apart.
- Street sweepings do not require any laboratory testing unless there is some reason to think they are contaminated (such as a strong smell of fuel oil or gas, for example). Once they are screened (3/4 inch screen) of trash they can be buried (if you have a Categorical Disposal Certification), landfilled, or used as fill if you receive approval from the Solid Waste Program. Please call for additional information.
- Store street sweeping piles away from surface waters or areas where they can run offsite during rain events, or be blown by strong winds.

Some General BMPs for Catch Basin Cleanings include:

- Keep your catch basin cleanings away from your street sweepings. Before you can bury this material (with a Categorical Disposal Certification) or use it as fill, you must demonstrate that it does not leach volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which exceed ground enforcement standards.
- Store this material in an area where it can be dewatered. Do not allow the water coming from your catch basin pile to directly discharge to waters of the state. Encourage the water to sheet flow to vegetated areas and/or evaporate onsite.

The sampling requirement for catch basin allows a VOC screening test before having to conduct a more comprehensive (and expensive) test. If the material passes the screening test it can be added to the street sweepings and buried (with a categorical disposal certification) or used as fill with approval from the Solid Waste Program.

If the material does not pass the VOC screening test additional testing will be required to further

characterize the material before it can be properly disposed of or used (with approval).

Additional BMPs and all of the final details for proper testing and disposal will be contained in the guidance materials once they are finished. If you have any questions about the management and/or disposal (or use) of street sweepings or catch basin cleanings, please call John Daly at 802-241-3471 or at 800-974-9559 #3