

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention: Landscape Renovations

Landscape renovations can contribute to urban runoff pollution. Materials and wastes blown or washed into a street, gutter or storm drain create a sediment load which negatively impacts our wetlands and waterways. Sediment can clog the gills of fish, block light transmission and increase water temperature, all of which can harm aquatic life and disrupt the food chain upon which both wildlife and people depend. Sediment also may carry with it other pollutants such as pesticides and fertilizers. **Follow these tips to prevent pollution of local wetlands and waterways!**

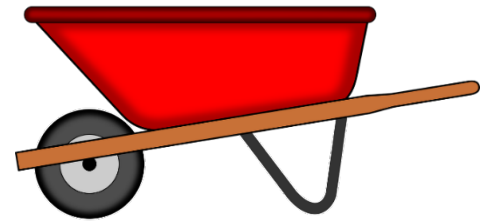
## Scan the site for potential pollutants prior to beginning work.

### Remove any potential pollutants.

- Look for trash, mulch, yard trimmings, cement, oil or soil that is either present on the site or will be present on-site during construction.

### Schedule work activities appropriately

- Do not schedule work if the NOAA weather forecast for Davis shows a 50% or greater chance of rain or winds in excess of 25 mph.
- Make sure to inspect and maintain perimeter sediment control BMPs, especially prior to rain events.



### Place protection for drainage inlets downstream of site in the public street.

- Storm drain inlets near construction sites must be protected from sediment-laden runoff.
- Use gravel bags, filter cloth or catch basin inserts.

### Place perimeter erosion and sediment controls and avoid disturbing sensitive areas on site.

- Place erosion and sediment controls at the perimeters of the project site and maintain them for the duration of project activities until soils are stabilized. Measures may include straw wattles, silt fences and berms.
  - Stabilize disturbed soil by covering with geotextile cloth or netting and watering it down (without creating mud or runoff) or hydroseed.
  - Fiber rolls can be placed on the perimeter of project to protect water quality. The straw material in the rolls traps sediment as runoff passes through it.
  - Silt fences are another kind of sediment control device used to prevent soil from flowing off the property and into storm drain inlets. The fabric in the silt fence causes sediment-laden runoff to pond and only allows the water to pass.

### Use good housekeeping practices to avoid pollutants being discharged from your project.

- Store construction materials, garbage, or sediment under solid cover and keep contained.
- Do not use blowers for cleanup unless winds are less than 15 mph.
- Do not leave soil, mulch or other material piles on the street or other impervious surfaces without containment during rain or wind storm events or for more than 72 hours.
- Do not block the curb, gutter or bicycle lane with material piles. Do not place material piles in front of storm drain inlets.
- Soil stockpiles should be covered or protected with soil stabilization measures and a temporary perimeter sediment barrier during wind and rain events to prevent erosion and pollution.
- If mixing concrete, have a concrete washout. Do not wash tools in the gutter. Do not wash concrete into the gutter.



## Preserve existing trees, ground cover, and shrubs.

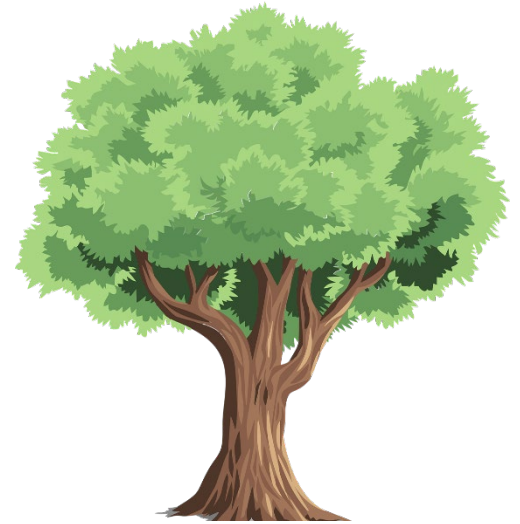
- Limit the footprint of impervious surfaces to the extent possible in order to preserve existing vegetation on the site.

## Maximize on-site infiltration and/or detention of runoff.

- When installing hardscapes, utilize pervious pavement, such as paving stones or decomposed granite to allow runoff to infiltrate into the soil, instead of impervious surfaces, like traditional asphalt and concrete.
- Direct rainwater runoff into landscaping areas.

## Add vegetation to hold soil in place.

- Stabilize soil on bare slopes and under the drip-line of houses without gutter systems with vegetation or rocks.
- Use deep-rooted plants and trees for higher water absorption.
- Use mulch on soil areas for weed control. Make sure it is retained on-site and will not be blown away by wind or washed away by rain.



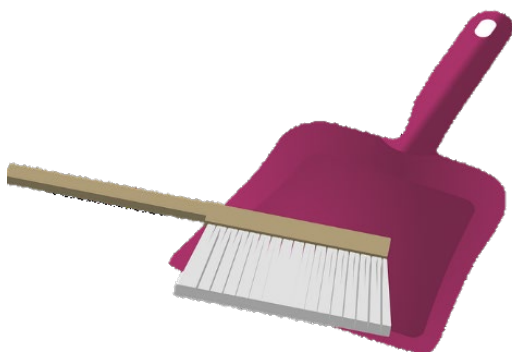
## Have a spill kit on hand for potential spills from equipment used such as rototillers, leaf blowers, chain saws, trenchers, tractors, pesticides, or herbicides.

- If using paints, chemicals, power equipment and vehicles, keep a spill kit handy.
- Spill kits should be clearly labeled, accessible and all employees should be aware of how to use them.
- Spill kits should consist of a five gallon container with absorbent materials such as cat litter and/or cloth rags, dust pan and brush, diversion materials and protective equipment necessary to clean spills (rubber gloves, safety goggles, dust masks). Use dry-clean methods only to clean up any portion of the spill. Citrus-based degreasers may be used sparingly after the spill is cleaned up using absorbent material.
- Dispose of absorbent or hazardous waste through the County's hazardous waste programs. Visit [YoloCounty.org/Landfill](http://YoloCounty.org/Landfill) for details.



## Clean the public street frontage and any hardscape surfacing at the end of every work day.

- Sweep or use other dry methods only.



### Hazardous Waste Disposal

Yolo County residents can bring household hazardous wastes, including paint waste, paint thinners and other toxic items to the Yolo Landfill for free every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Businesses may use the County's business hazardous waste program, fees apply. Learn more at [YoloCounty.org/Landfill](http://YoloCounty.org/Landfill)