3 Loading and Unloading Materials

This BMP applies to existing facilities* that load and unload materials stored in containers, as well as direct liquid or gas transfers from tanks. The loading and unloading of materials should be done where spills and residual materials from the cleanup can be discharged to the sanitary sewer or to an on-site wastewater treatment system. Call the Source Control Division at 503-823-5320 for discharge procedures and requirements.

If materials are transferred outdoors, the following precautions should be taken to prevent stormwater runoff contamination:

1. Use loading docks with overhangs or door skirts to enclose the end of the trailer when transferring from a truck. Curbs or berms should be installed to keep out stormwater runoff. Keep appropriate materials available for rapid spill cleanup.

2. For tanker truck transfer to aboveground or underground storage tanks, pave and slope the floor of the transfer area to a secondary containment system to prevent leaks from spills. The paved surface must be suitable for the type of liquid being transferred. For example, gasoline will slowly dissolve asphalt, thus concrete is the appropriate surface. Use drip pans under hose connections, hose reels and filter nozzles.

3. For railcar transfers, use drip pans at locations where spills may occur as in 2. A drip pan system should also be used within the rails to collect spills from tank cars.

4. Coast Guard Requirements in 33 CFR Titles 153, 154 and 155 cover marine transfers. These regulations cover spill response, spill prevention at marine facilities and spill prevention for vessels.

5. Ensure that staff are present during material transfers both to prevent spills, and to clean up the spills immediately if they occur. The personnel should be properly trained in spill containment methods including the use of sorbent material, gelling agents and vacuum and pump systems.

6. Examine loading and unloading areas for dust, fumes or stains to determine if materials are being lost during these operations. Check vehicles and equipment for leaks and repair them promptly, and clean up any spills or leaks to the ground as soon as possible.

7. Maintain properly stocked spill control kits throughout the facility at locations where accidental discharges have a potential to occur.


* Facilities subject to new development standards as identified in the City’s Stormwater Management Manual may have additional or different requirements than those listed on this BMP. For information please contact the City’s Development Assistance staff at 503-823-7122.