

S442 BMPs for Labeling Storm Drain Inlets On Your Property

Description of Pollutant Sources: Waste materials dumped into storm drain inlets can have severe impacts on receiving waters. Posting notices regarding discharge prohibitions at storm drain inlets can prevent waste dumping. Storm drain signs and stencils are highly visible source controls that are typically placed directly adjacent to storm drain inlets.

Pollutant Control Approach: The stencil, affixed sign, or metal grate contains a brief statement that prohibits dumping of improper materials into the urban runoff conveyance system. Storm drain messages have become a popular method of alerting the public about the effects of and the prohibitions against waste disposal.

Applicable Operational BMPs:

- Label storm drain inlets in residential, commercial, industrial areas, and any other areas where contributions or dumping to storm drains is likely.
- Stencil or apply storm drain markers adjacent to storm drain inlets to help prevent the improper disposal of pollutants. Or, use a storm drain grate stamped with warnings against polluting.
- Place the marker in clear sight facing toward anyone approaching the inlet from either side.
- Use a brief statement and/or graphical icons to discourage illegal dumping. Examples include:
 - “No Dumping – Drains to Stream”
 - “No Pollutants – Drains to Puget Sound”
 - “Dump No Waste – Drains to Lake”
 - “No Dumping – Puget Sound Starts Here”
- Check with your local jurisdiction to find out if they have approved specific signage and/or storm drain message placards for use. Consult the local jurisdiction stormwater staff to determine specific requirements for placard types and methods of application.
- Maintain the legibility of markers and signs. Signage on top of curbs tends to weather and fade. Signage on face of curbs tends to be worn by contact with vehicle tires and sweeper brooms.
- When painting stencils or installing markers, temporarily block the storm drain inlet so that no pollutants are discharged from the labeling activities.

Recommended Operational BMPs:

Use a stencil in addition to a storm drain marker or grate to increase visibility of the message.

Reference for this BMP: ([CASQA, 2003](#)).

Figure IV-7.7: Storm Drain Inlet Labels



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