

S445 BMPs for Temporary Fruit Storage

Description of Pollutant Sources: This activity applies to businesses that temporarily store fruits and vegetables outdoors prior to or after packing, processing, or sale, or that crush, cut, or shred fruits or vegetables for wines, frozen juices, and other food and beverage products.

Activities involving the storage or processing of fruits, vegetables, and grains can potentially result in the delivery of pollutants to stormwater. Potential pollutants of concern from all fruit and vegetable storage and processing activities include nutrients, suspended solids, substances that increase biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and color. These pollutants must not be discharged to the drainage system or directly into receiving waters.

Pollutant Control Approach: Store and process fruits and vegetables indoors or under cover whenever possible. Educate employees about proper procedures. Cover and contain operations and apply good housekeeping and preventive maintenance practices to prevent the contamination of stormwater.

Applicable Operational BMPs:

- Educate employees on the benefits of keeping a clean storage area.
- Keep fruits, vegetables, and grains stored outside for longer than a day in plastic bins or in bins lined with plastic. The edge of the plastic liner should be higher than the amount of fruit stored or should drape over the side of the bin.
- Dispose of rotten fruit, vegetables, and grains in a timely manner (typically, within a week).
- Make sure all outside materials that have the potential to leach or spill to the drainage system are covered, contained, or moved to an indoor location. For fruits, vegetables, and grains stored outside for a week or more, cover with a tarp or other waterproof material. Make sure coverings are secured from wind.
- Minimize the use of water when cleaning produce to avoid excess runoff.
- Sweep or shovel storage and processing areas daily to collect dirt and fruit and vegetable fragments for proper disposal. Keep hosing to a minimum.
- Keep cleanup materials, such as brooms and dustpans, near the storage area.
- If a holding tank is used for the storage of wastewater, pump out the contents before the tank is full and dispose of wastewater to a sanitary sewer or approved wastewater treatment system.

Applicable Structural BMPs:

- Enclose the processing area in a building or shed, or cover the area with provisions for stormwater run-on prevention. Alternatively, pave and slope the area to drain to the sanitary sewer, holding tank, or process

treatment system collection drain.

Optional Structural BMPs:

- Cover outdoor storage areas for fruits and vegetables.
- Use a containment curb, dike, or berm to prevent off-site runoff from storage or processing areas and to prevent stormwater run-on.

Washington State Department of Ecology

2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (2024 SWMMWW)

Publication No. 24-10-013