



Focus on Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has published an update to its *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*. The manual represents Ecology's latest guidance on strategies to prevent and reduce the harms of stormwater pollution.

Objective:

As water runs off impervious surfaces like roads, it picks up pollutants such as pesticides, animal waste from lawns, oil, grease, heavy metals, dirt, and dust. This runoff has emerged as one of the largest sources of pollution in Puget Sound, contributing to restricted shellfish harvesting, unswimmable waterways, and dwindling fish and orca whale populations.

The objective of this manual is to protect water quality by providing strategies to control the quality and quantity of storm water discharged in new residential and commercial developments, at industrial and construction sites, and in urban areas.

This manual defines some of the more progressive stormwater techniques in the nation. Volume I of the manual recommends minimum requirements for new development and redevelopment projects of all sizes and provides guidance on preparing and implementing stormwater site plans. These requirements are satisfied by the application of best management practices (BMPs) from Volumes II through V.

Use:

Current law and regulations require the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of stormwater systems that prevent pollution of state waters. The manual is a guidance document that provides local governments, state and federal agencies, developers and project proponents with a stormwater management strategy to use on new development and redevelopment projects. Its "Requirements" and BMPs become mandatory through:

- Ordinances and rules established by local governments.
- Permits and other authorizations issued by Ecology and other local, state, and federal authorities.

If this strategy is implemented correctly, in most cases it will result in compliance with existing federal and state regulatory requirements for storm water, including compliance with the federal Clean Water Act and the state Water Pollution Control Act. Federal, state, and local permitting authorities with jurisdiction can require more stringent measures that are deemed necessary to meet locally established goals, state water quality standards, or other established natural resource or drainage objectives. This manual provides techniques to control high flows, with refinements based on local conditions. The Department of Ecology continues to encourage infiltration as the preferred option for dealing with storm water, when feasible. This technique calls for the storage of storm water in a basin where it can be slowly absorbed into the ground water.

Most Significant Changes:

Updates to this manual apply recent research, revise design criteria and procedures, correct errors, and clarify statements. The most significant changes include:

- Representation of low impact development techniques in the runoff computer model.
- Tailored flow control requirements for sites in highly urbanized areas where stream channels have stabilized over the past 20 years.
- Relief from flow control requirements for discharges to segments of certain rivers where peak flows will not change the stream channel.
- More focused effort to reduce the discharge of metals that are created by traffic,

- Expanded use of “Certified Erosion providing more protection than the previous manual..
- Expanded use of continuous runoff modeling and minimal use of single event hydrograph methods.and Sediment Control Leads.”

How to Get Printed Copies of the Stormwater Manual

If you have a credit card, you can order printed copies of the manual or on CD at the following Internet address:

<https://wws2.wa.gov/prt/printwa/wsprt/default.asp>

You can also use this Internet site to get price information and then send a check or money order payable to “Department of Printing” at the following address:

Department of Printing
P.O. Box 798
Olympia, WA 98507-0798

Make sure you include your name, mailing address, phone number, and the name of the publication (2005 *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*). Allow about two weeks for delivery. If you have questions about ordering the Stormwater Manual, please call the Department of Printing at 360-586-6360.

How to Find the Stormwater Management Manual on the Internet

The *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* is also available on Ecology’s Stormwater Homepage. The Internet address is:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/index.html>

How to Find Corrections, Updates, and Additional Information

With a publication of this size and complexity there will inevitably be errors that must be corrected and clarifications that are needed. There will also be new information and technological updates. Ecology intends to publish corrections, updates, and new technical information on our Stormwater Homepage listed above. This Web site will not be used to make revisions in key policy areas – such as the thresholds and minimum requirements in Volume I. We encourage you to check this site periodically and incorporate corrections and updates into your copies of the manual. You can also visit this Web site for updates and additional information about other Ecology stormwater activities.

For more information, contact Ed O’Brien at 360-407-6438 or E-mail at eobr461@ecy.wa.gov

If you need this information in an alternate format, please contact us at 360-407-6401. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 800-833-6388 for TTY.