

September 2013

# The Monthly Dirt

A Monthly Newsletter on the California Construction General Permit  
By WGR Southwest, Inc.

## Keep it Covered



The Construction General Permit requires all risk levels to do the following:

- *Store chemicals in watertight containers (with appropriate secondary containment to prevent any spillage or leakage) or in a storage shed (completely enclosed).*
- *Minimize exposure of construction materials to precipitation. This does not include materials and equipment that are designed to be outdoors and exposed to environmental conditions (i.e. poles, equipment pads, cabinets, conductors, insulators, bricks, etc.)*
- *Cover waste disposal containers at the end of every business day and during a rain event.*
- *Stack erodible landscape material on pallets and covering or storing such materials when not being used or applied.*

Stating the obvious, if a material does not come into contact with storm water, it will not have an impact on the project's storm water runoff. The easiest way to accomplish this is by placing these materials under a covering. It sounds simple and makes sense; but, unfortunately, it is not put into practice as often as it should. Many people do not realize how many materials common to construction sites need to be placed under cover. They include paints, paint additives, solvents, thinners, concrete curing agents, concrete additives, sealers, grout, plaster, cement, resins, adhesives, PVC



glue and primer, fuel, lubricants, oils, cleansers, detergents, fertilizers, and many others. If any of these materials are on your project they need to be included in the SWPPP's material inventory and, when not in use, they should be stored in a manner to prevent them from coming into contact with storm water. QSPs, who are inspecting their sites for compliance with these permit requirements, have various options available to keep these materials out of the rain. Covering options include the use of plastic sheeting, tarps, jobsite boxes, portable storage containers, or within a covered vehicle (such as within a toolbox). Many times materials are delivered to a project long before they are actually needed. When it is possible, try to have materials not brought to the project until it is necessary. However, not only do new materials need to be kept out of the rain, but other things such as solid waste, paint waste, concrete washout, contaminated soil, and crushed concrete need to be managed in such a way that they do not impact the quality of the storm water runoff. Many of these materials can alter pH, increase turbidity, and introduce other pollutants to the site's runoff. All of these materials, if contacted with storm water, would trigger the permit's non-visible pollutant sampling requirement.

## Covering Options in a Pinch

What happens when that unexpected storm comes in? What are your options for covering things quickly? Using some creativity, a trip to the local Home Depot or hardware store can come up with some last minute covering solutions.

### Try plastic sheeting ...

A 20' x 100' roll costs approximately \$100. Place chemicals in a contained area (earthen berm lined with plastic sheeting) and cover the berm with plastic sheeting that has been secured or weighted down.



### Try a Job-Site Box ...

For storage of small quantities of paints or other (non-flammable) chemicals, consider using a job-site box that will be placed in a safe and secure area or within a pickup truck. The pictured 48" steel box costs less than \$300 and the 48" plastic tote costs about \$150.



## Portable Storage Containers



One of the most common ways to store materials out of the rain is in a temporary portable storage container. These containers can be rented from companies like Mobile Modular

([www.mmrents-portablestorage.com](http://www.mmrents-portablestorage.com)).

They come in various lengths ranging from 10' to 40'; and, at a monthly rent of \$75 to \$120, provide an affordable covering solution for your construction site. One effective way to make these containers not only a covering but also containment is to elevate the front of the container higher than the back so that any spills drain towards the back of the container away from the doors.

## Upcoming Training ...

- **Storm Water Awareness Week** Sept. 23-27 for more information about these free workshops, go to ... [www.StormWaterAwareness.org](http://www.StormWaterAwareness.org)
- CPESC Math Review September 26

Got SWPPP? Classes coming to Lodi:

- ✓ QSP/QSD Training – Oct. 8-10, 2013
- ✓ CPESC Review & Exam – Nov. 5-7, 2013

For more information about these classes, go to [www.gotswppp.com](http://www.gotswppp.com).

## Solutions for Roll-off Bins

Probably the most often overlooked items to be covered at a construction site are those 40-yard roll-off waste bins. Why? Because, it is a royal pain to cover them at the end of each day! There are all sorts of challenges, such as, finding tarps that fit well and are durable, adequately securing the tarps, keeping rain from forming puddles in the center of the tarp, preventing crews from throwing waste on top of the tarp, and having the tarp stolen during the night. But there are some affordable options to easily and securely cover a bin. AAATarps offers two such options including an affordable heavy duty vinyl tarp that retails for about \$200, as well as, a roll-off container tarp kit that includes an easy to open crank assembly and tarp bow structures to keep the tarp elevated off of the load and to shed storm water. For more information, go to [www.aatarps.com](http://www.aatarps.com).



*Please contact us if you have any questions ...*

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Call ...

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# SEPTEMBER 23-27

Coming to Locations throughout California

# STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK 2013

*Storm Water Education should not be Big Business*

- ⚡ Free storm water education
- ⚡ Workshops all over California
- ⚡ Topics of interest for construction, industrial, and municipal permittees; and for QSPs & QSDs.
- ⚡ PDU opportunities
- ⚡ Meet your facility's annual training requirements



[WWW.STORMWATERAWARENESS.ORG](http://WWW.STORMWATERAWARENESS.ORG)

Need to protect your records?

Need a tool for managing records?

Tired of losing data?

Want to save time and money on inspections?

## Effortless Record Keeping System

The QSP Pad™ is a revolutionary new service from **BMP Outlet** that provides a tool for storm water inspectors to accurately and easily create and keep track of field inspection records, and transmit them directly to the LRP or project managers at a *click* of a button.

- It uses the same forms you are already accustomed to using – but electronically!
- Each tablet comes pre-loaded with everything needed for QSP inspections.
- The QSP Pad™ tablet is also loaded with lots of useful references and tools for QSPs including a copy of the CGP, water quality references, a risk determination worksheet, a pH averaging tool, training documents, pre-programmed storm water website bookmarks, map and weather tools and apps, and many more features. We will even customize it for up to 3 of your projects.
- It improves inspector accuracy by stamping each form with the time and date of inspection.
- A built in app will allow inspection data to be stored safely on a cloud server until records can be transferred elsewhere.
- Completed inspection reports (embedded with site photos) can be emailed to multiple people with the touch of a button.



Each QSP Pad™ tablet has minimum specifications of 8 GBs RAM, built in camera, and 9-inch screen size, and utilizes an Android operating system.

**Get your custom-loaded QSP Pad™ for only \$585.00\***

\* Not including tax & shipping. The forms app comes with a free 30-day trial and will require a license fee of \$0.50/completed report or \$20/month unlimited use for up to 3 users.

Please visit [www.BMPOutlet.com](http://www.BMPOutlet.com) to purchase yours today!

# September Special Offer

*Get Ready for the Wet Season*

Hot Deals on QSP Services including:

- QSP inspection services with all-inclusive flat monthly rates
- QSP refresher training at your location
- Storm water sampling and testing training
- QSP / QSD training
- Assessment of your project's BMPs and readiness for the storm season
- Customization of your smart phone or tablet device with site specific inspection forms
- Monthly QSP oversight of appropriately trained personnel
- Management and review of field records

*Call John Teravskis for a quote (209) 334-5363 x110*

## **Coupon**

One free week of QSP services and one free REAP preparation with purchase of two months or more of WGR's QSP inspection services.  
(Contact us for more details.)

*WGR Southwest, Inc. ... not your typical consultant*