

STATEWIDE TRASH POLICY & COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL SITES

Many in the community are talking about the State Water Resources Control Board's New Trash Policy and the ramifications for the City and the requirements imposed upon local business and property owners.

The Policy and local regulations requires a full prohibition of trash within and abutting waterways (*i.e. drainage ditches, creeks, rivers, lakes and the ocean*). Trash must be effectively contained and managed daily on each and every site. **Trash is anything from the man-made environment that is not properly disposed of and / or managed effectively on site.** In addition, to things such as, beverage bottles, coffee cups, cigarette butts, trash also includes landscape materials (*i.e. leaves, lawn clippings, branches and etcetera*) from the man-made environment.



All of these items and many more when not properly disposed of create problems within the environment. As they break down toxins are released. Prior to decomposition small items, such as cigarette butts and bottle caps are mistaken as food by wildlife and once their stomachs are full of trash they starve to death because their internal sensors tell them they are full. Thus, trash must be effectively managed and disposed of at a minimum weekly, if not daily on all sites.

Actions Required

What this means, is that trash must be effectively managed on each and every site daily. Trash can no longer be allowed to be left lying on the ground (*i.e. loose trash is litter*), even on private property. Site owners and operators must implement appropriate on-site control measures (*AKA Best Management Practices - BMPs*) to ensure that loose trash no longer exist on site and immediately off site. Site owners / operators are not only responsible to keep their site free of loose litter and trash, but also the sidewalk and gutter directly associated with the site. How a business and/or site operator achieves this goal is up to them. Some common BMPs to consider include:



- 1) **Educate and train staff** about the importance of effectively managing trash on and off site.
 - a) Routinely bring these concepts up during staff meetings.
 - b) Meetings should include a sign in sheet and a list of items discussed.
 - c) Provide effective messaging throughout the site (*i.e. anti-littering signs*).
- 2) Assign roles and responsibilities regarding trash management.
- 3) Consider cigarette butt receptacles where smokers congregate.
- 4) **Trash & Recycling Containers**
 - a) Determine if waste disposal needs meet seasonal waste generation levels.
 - Many sites have an increased customer base during the holidays and /or during summer.
 - b) Have designated areas with trash and recycling containers where staff eat and/or take breaks at.
 - c) Provide 35-gallon customer trash and recycling containers located strategically throughout the site.
 - d) **Bag all trash prior to putting it into the trash container.**
 - e) Keep lids closed on all trash and recycling containers except when loading and during servicing.
 - f) **Do not** overfill trash and recycling containers. Exposed garbage will likely result as litter.
 - g) Replace any trash and/or recycling containers that are leaking or deteriorating.
 - h) Clean the trash and recycling container storage areas at a minimum weekly, if not daily.
 - i) Keep the exterior of trash and recycling containers clean of grit, ooze and etcetera.

5) Good Housekeeping Practices

- a) Are procedures and/or activities designed and implemented and /or discontinued to protect the environment from potential pollutant discharges. Trash is a pollutant.
- b) Site owners / operators may have to increase or add good housekeeping practices schedules.
- c) Incorporate site litter (*trash*) cleanup into your maintenance schedule.
- d) Have the landscape maintenance team pick up loose trash weekly.
- e) Pick up all loose debris and trash around and in front of your site (*sidewalk and gutter*) weekly.
- f) Sweep or rake up litter, leaves, and grass and put it in the appropriate container.
- g) Blow leaves and debris into a pile on a tarp or drop cloth for proper disposal.
- h) Remove flyers, door hangers, newspapers daily from the front of your building and site.
- i) **Contract Updates:** Incorporate trash abatement into all facilities / landscape maintenance contracts.

6) Vehicle Tips

- a) Keep a trash bag in all company vehicles.
- b) For trucks remove all trash from the back of the bed before you drive down the road daily.
- c) Properly dispose of those annoying flyers left on windshields in the trash.
- d) Dispose of trash from vehicles when you fuel up.
- e) **Never** litter.

7) Vacant Parcels - For vacant parcels clean quarterly of all trash and other debris.

8) Creekside Parcels - For parcels abutting and/or including a watercourse (*i.e. creek, drainage channel and etcetera*) routinely clean the site of all trash and other debris at least weekly, if not daily. Loose trash (*i.e. litter*) is a violation.

9) Assistance Needed

- a) Report illegal dumping, date, time, vehicle ID and license plate number. If possible, take pictures during the act.
- b) Report litter bugs.
- c) Volunteer annually for regional creek cleanup events.



10) Full Capture Systems - If trash cannot be effectively managed on site the site owner / operator may be required to install full trash capture systems at every storm drain inlet to ensure that trash cannot enter a stormwater conveyance system (*i.e. private and public, including, storm drain inlets, storm drain pipes, drainage ditches, creeks, lakes and etcetera*).

11) Regulatory Incentives

- a) Loose trash or “litter” is a violation of not only State regulations, but also local municipal codes.
- b) Fines can range from a few hundred dollars to thousands of dollars.
- c) Together we can ensure regulatory compliance and improve the quality of our community.
- d) Interested third party lawsuits are fast becoming a trend when environmental non-compliance can be assessed. Loose trash (*i.e. litter*) on a site is evidence of a violation.
- e) Agency personnel, both City and State routinely inspect and assess sites for compliance with this new regulation.

