Best Management Practices
Stormwater Management

This factsheet is part of our Stormwater Management series. To access this series and many other educational resources, please visit: spcwater.org.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are used in stormwater management to prevent and mitigate problems related to stormwater. BMPs include mechanisms that control the volume, rate, and quality of stormwater. BMPs also include practices that prevent the creation of stormwater runoff and stormwater pollution. BMPs used in stormwater management are classified as either non-structural or structural.

For more information about the impacts of stormwater, visit:

- EPA.gov
- depweb.state.pa.us
- pacd.org
- bmpdatabase.org
- spcwater.org

Vegetated swales are a structural BMP that manage stormwater volume and rate, while also improving water quality.

Preserving important natural features with special value for managing stormwater, such as floodplains and wetlands, is a key non-structural BMP for use when developing land.

Non-Structural BMPs

Non-structural BMPs include design approaches and practices that are used for their ability to prevent the occurrence of stormwater runoff. A majority of non-structural BMPs must be incorporated during site development.

Principle Groups of Non-Structural BMPs

- Protect Sensitive & Special Value Features
- Cluster & Concentrate
- Minimize Disturbance & Maintenance
- Reduce Impervious Cover
- Disconnect / Distribute / Decentralize
- Source Control

Structural BMPs

Structural BMPs are stormwater management techniques that have to be constructed and are typically used to mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff. Structural BMPs can be implemented during site development and in retrofit situations.

Principle Groups of Structural BMPs

- Volume / Peak Rate Reduction by Infiltration
- Volume / Peak Rate Reduction
- Runoff Quality / Peak Rate BMPs
- Restoration BMPs
- Other BMPs & Related Structural Measures

For more information please contact:

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