Storm drainage best practices Last updated Apr. 17, 2017

Erosion control

These measures help control erosion of dirt, rock and other debris with the eroded material being carried into the storm system by runoff

- Cover or seed piles.
- Use and maintain settling ponds.
- Compact soils well.
- Don't run water over steep slopes, loose dirt, or loose rock.
- Avoid long, steep slopes.
- Use hay, wattles or similar material to slow water.
- Use silt fences to contain eroded material
- Do not store or leave loose material in waterways.
- Phase construction to minimize exposed dirt and loose rock areas.
- Use rock, filter cloth or other material over storm drain inlets to filter eroded material out of the water.
- Place containment barriers around all exterior storage areas.
- Stay on designated trails and roads. Treading on new ground can cause erosion.

Dirt and dust control

These measures help control dirt and dust being washed off of surfaces and carried to the storm system by runoff

- Cover or seed piles.
- Keep dirt piles moist.
- Don't track mud onto streets and sidewalks.
- Avoid working in muddy conditions
- Maintain and refresh rock pads in the entrance to construction areas and keep tires clean.
- Sweep sidewalks, driveways, and streets areas rather than washing them down.
- Use rock, filter cloth or other material over storm drain inlets to filter silt out of the water.

Trash and debris control

These measures help limit the amount of trash and garbage reaching the storm system

- Put solid waste into trash containers not the wash.
- Put cups, wrappings, bags, and other trash in trash cans. Don't litter.
- Put landscape clippings, and other vegetative waste into trashcans.
- Make sure that trashcans are not overfilled on windy days.
- Use rock, filter cloth or other material over storm drain inlets to filter debris out of the water.
- Businesses should provide adequate and easily located trash receptacles for customers
- Discard diapers, bottles, cans, cigarette butts, string, can pull tabs, and other debris in trash cans not on sidewalks, streets, or the ground.
- Carry a trash bag for trash when driving or hiking. Don't throw trash on the ground.
- Don't drain trash can or other container wash water to the storm drain or other drainage ways.

Oil, grease, and gasoline control

These measures help reduce the amount of oil, grease, and gasoline related to cars and trucks from reaching the storm system

- Have oil and grease changed at a professional mechanics shop.
- Wash your vehicles at a commercial car wash
- If you change your own automotive fluids capture them in a proper container and take them to a recycling center.
- Parking lot drainage should be filtered prior to being discharged to the city system or offsite.
- Maintain the filter devices or area by periodically removing the filter material and replacing it with fresh filter material
- Keep the area around grease traps and grease containers free of dripping or spilled oil and grease.
- Use absorbent material to collect spills and dispose of swept materials properly.
- Sweep streets and parking lots frequently

General tips	A number of ways to reduce the introduction of pollutants into the storm system	 Do not connect the sanitary sewer or other waste piping to the storm system. Do not wash paint, solvents, concrete, or other construction materials into the storm system. Pick up after your animals. Place containment barriers around all exterior chemical storage areas. Do not overuse pesticides, insecticides or solvents
		- Don't pour drinks on the ground.

Storm water pollution types

Natural	Chemical	Litter
Organic and inorganic materials such as leaves, grass clippings and dirt sediment.	Detergents, engine coolant, engine oil, grease, fertilizer and paint.	Any trash, including plastic bags and bottles, cigarette butts, etc.
Fact	Fact	Fact
Decaying vegetation and sediments transport heavy metals and phosphorous compounds that can become toxic and harm water quality. Sedimentation also fills waterways resulting in more severe flooding over time.	One gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of drinking water; or just one quart can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.	Litter produces an obvious visual pollution which can physically damage animals and natural vegetation and can release substances poisonous to natural systems when it breaks down. Storm water drains in Sedona do not filter many pollutants including trash.
Sources	Sources	Sources
 Construction sites Eroded areas Poor handling or dumping of grass/leaves Animal feces/waste Fertilizers from irrigated lawns 	 Leaky vehicles and equipment Poor handling or dumping of oil or grease Industrial areas Car washing 	LitteringIllegal dumpingPackaging StyrofoamBagsTires