

# Stormwater Ponds Quick Guide

## Developers and Commercial Industries

During the construction of new buildings or subdivisions, stormwater ponds are a critical element to ensure surface water is captured for natural treatment. The main objective of these ponds is to collect runoff water from impervious surfaces and mitigate downstream water impairment by mimicking natural treatment processes. For developers and construction crews, it is important to understand stormwater pond systems and adequately manage the surrounding working zones to keep a healthy ecosystem. Here are some general tips to promote best practices for the maintenance of stormwater ponds.

### ► General Tips and Best Practices for Pond Maintenance

*1. Design construction areas to capture debris and litter before it can enter stormwater drains or downslopes into ponds. This includes using fencing material or grass filters near drainage areas. This can reduce downstream clogs and debris from entering waterways leading to stormwater ponds.*



**Construction debris in pond**

2. Using filtering grass around stormwater drains can help reduce sediment or clay runoff from job sites, but it must be maintained to prevent flooding. In some cases, clogs can cause water to back up into jobs sites. Once these clogs are removed, materials and debris can be swept into drains increasing the litter in ponds.

3. Ensure employees wash paintbrushes and dispose of other chemical cleaners into a collection bucket for safe disposal. If contractors rinse cleaners, paints or other chemicals with outside spigot onto the grounds, this can persist and wash into surrounding ponds, causing contamination. It is best practice to wash these tools in a bucket and dispose of them in a proper receptacle.



**Industrial compounds causing foaming in pond from leaching**

4. Provide roll-off containers or a closed area for paint cans, used chemical containers or oil canisters to be thrown away so they can be properly disposed of to prevent debris from entering waterways.

5. In subdivision builds, avoid overwatering newly sodded areas. Overwatering can increase runoff of sediments and nutrients, impairing waterways. Additionally, make sure water is localized to the yard, and not directed toward impervious surfaces. Overwatering can also be costly; an average sprinkler uses between 500 to 1,000 gallons per hour. If left on overnight for 12 hours, it can use 12,000 gallons of water.

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