

## 4.2-m DUMPSTER MANAGEMENT

Alternative Names: Trash, Garbage or Solid Waste Containment and Storage

### DESCRIPTION

Dumpster management involves selecting an appropriate location for stored waste materials, controlling dumpster discharges, securing waste from wildlife disturbance, and minimizing visual impacts among other considerations. Proper dumpster management reduces stormwater contamination and enhances the aesthetic appearance of surrounding areas. Dumpsters are intended for containment of solid wastes and are not appropriate for the storage of liquid wastes such as oils, and/or other hazardous materials. Refer to Section 4.2-n Hazardous Material Management for more details regarding proper storage and disposal of hazardous wastes.



### APPLICABILITY

This BMP is suitable and necessary for all multi-family, commercial, and industrial projects with solid waste containment.

### Advantages

Proper dumpster management:

- Prevents contamination of groundwater, storm drains, and other water bodies.
- Helps control nuisance animals and other pest populations such as rodents and insects.
- Helps to protect wildlife.
- Helps reduce odors.

### BMP DESIGN APPROACH

Pollutant Source Control

Hydrologic Source Control

Stormwater Treatment

### SCALE OF APPLICATION

All SFR and MFR < 1 acre

MFR 1-5 Acre and CICU < 5 acres

MFR and CICU > 5 acres and all WQIPs

### TYPE OF APPLICATION

Temporary

Permanent

- Maintains aesthetic quality of surrounding areas.

### Disadvantages

- Dumpsters need periodic cleaning and maintenance to remove odors, bacteria, and viruses.

### DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

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- When choosing a dumpster, consider features that are durable, easy to clean, secure against insects and animals including bear, resistant to leaking (e.g. having a sealed drain plug), and provide adequate volume to contain the expected loads of solid waste.
- Identify a convenient location within the project area that is shaded, level, and paved for easy access for the waste removal servicer. If a suitable location is difficult to identify, request placement assistance from the waste removal servicer.
- Locate dumpsters away from municipal storm drain inlets.
- Dumpsters shall be screened from surrounding areas with fencing and covered to protect against coming in contact with the elements.
- Consider installation of a diversion drain for dumpsters and dumpster storage areas requiring frequent washing, to divert dumpster wash water into a sanitary sewer or to another appropriate end-point treatment. Contact the local jurisdiction for specific requirements.
- Follow applicable local jurisdiction codes and design considerations for dumpster placement.

### INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

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- Install dumpsters on a paved surface.
- Post signage to inform dumpster users that no trash may be left outside the dumpster and that the bear-proof mechanism must be engaged. Signage is available from the Bear League. [www.savebears.org](http://www.savebears.org).



*Make sure dumpsters are closed, latched, and secure to prevent unwanted wildlife intrusions. Photo courtesy of the BEAR League*

## INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

- Use dumpsters for solid waste only. Liquid waste can only be disposed of in a sanitary sewer, recycled, or contained and removed as hazardous waste. Check with your local utility district for more information. Provide dry absorptive materials (e.g. kitty litter or sawdust), to absorb small quantities of liquid waste that can leak from dumpsters.
- Dispose of kitchen and restaurant wastes (e.g. fats, oils, and grease) in special recycling containers that prevent contents from coming into contact with stormwater runoff.
- Keep dumpster lids and side hatches closed at all times to exclude precipitation. (Rain or snow can accumulate inside a dumpster, absorb pollutants, and contaminate stormwater as it leaks out.)
- Secure dumpsters to prevent illegal dumping or scavenging by wildlife. Failure to secure dumpsters from bear is illegal in the Lake Tahoe Region.
- Keep all dumpster storage areas and surrounding areas clean of trash, debris, and litter. Inspect and clean daily.
- Clean the inside and outside of dumpsters periodically to remove odors, bacteria, viruses, insects, and animals. Minimize the amount of water and detergents used in cleaning, and dispose of wastewater into sanitary sewers or other appropriate receptacles.

## EFFECTIVENESS CONSIDERATIONS

A properly sized, secured, and located dumpster will protect water quality and wildlife. Failure to properly locate and maintain a dumpster may result in the discharge of toxic substances into stormwater. Failure to educate dumpster users

about the importance of securing dumpsters will result in the creation of “nuisance” bears which may cause additional property damage and will generally result in the death of the bear.