

Portable Toilets BMP



Purpose: This summary was prepared to address Best Management Practices (BMP) for portable toilet facilities that are regularly placed on ISU construction sites. The prevention of storm water pollution from construction projects is regulated by site-specific storm water construction permits and a facility-wide “Phase II” storm water permit. Recent enforcement action at construction sites by State and Federal environmental regulators suggest that portable toilet facilities require specific attention. The purpose of this document is to suggest practices that minimize the potential for storm water pollution from portable toilets and therefore ensure regulatory compliance.

Location: Consider the following recommendations when locating portable toilets at a construction site:

- Place toilets on flat stable ground.
- Locate toilets as far from storm drains as possible. Provide secondary containment if the proximity of storm drains present an unreasonable risk in the event of a leak or spill.
- Avoid impervious surfaces, such as concrete, that will quickly direct spills to storm sewers. Grass, sand and gravel surfaces will adsorb liquid for easy clean up of leaks or spills.
- Place toilets inside security fences to prevent vandalism.
- Locate toilets so that exposure to traffic and moving equipment is minimized, install safety bollards if necessary.
- Consider securing toilets to the ground with cables and stakes if they are located in open areas subject to high winds.
- Ensure easy access for pump truck and toilet service staff.

Maintenance: The following is a summary of necessary maintenance activities:

- Follow vendor recommendations for a suitable number of portable toilets for the anticipated site workforce.
- Provide for a suitable cleaning and maintenance schedule.
- Check regularly for damage, leaks and spills. Ideally, this would be part of the weekly storm water site inspection.
- Clearly label toilets needing maintenance or repair. Promptly notify vendor to schedule maintenance.
- Maintain spill response material and equipment on site. Often, the earth moving equipment associated with the construction project is sufficient.

Records: The following records will help ensure regulatory compliance:

- Record the location of portable toilets on the storm water pollution prevention plan.
- Make note of portable toilet condition on weekly storm water inspection records.
- Report leaks and spills to EH&S at 4-5359 during business hours. After hours calls should be directed to the storm water hot line at 294-7229.