

BMP 55.00. Street Sweeping and Vacuuming for Sediment Control

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Objectives

Street Sweeping and Vacuuming for Sediment Control is used to remove sediment from paved surfaces to prevent it from entering storm drain systems or waters of the U.S.

Description

Sediment is removed from roads and paved surfaces by power sweepers or manual methods and disposed of in a controlled sediment disposal area.

Applicability

Sweeping is implemented anywhere sediment is tracked from the project area onto public or private paved roads and other paved surfaces. Street Sweeping and Vacuuming for Sediment Control should be conducted when sediment accumulation is visible on paved surfaces. Typically, this will be concentrated at the exit to the construction site

Selection Considerations

- Sweepers that pick up sediment and control dust emissions should be specified. Of the four types of mechanical power sweepers available, three (vacuum, regenerative air, and high efficiency sweepers) are acceptable. Prohibit the use of methods that use only mechanical kick brooms. Conventional mechanical broom sweepers have been found to have a negative effect on the amount of stormwater runoff pollution. Mechanical sweepers may only be used if followed by a vacuum-assisted sweeper.
- Manual broom sweeping with pickup is acceptable. On smaller construction sites and in areas not accessible by power sweepers, sweeping can be conducted manually using a broom and shovel.
- The use of leaf blowers and other similar equipment for sweeping is unacceptable.
- Reasonable measures must be employed to prevent dust from becoming airborne during any operation where material that may create dust is handled, transported, or stored.

- If the sediment or soil is wet or muddy, paved surfaces will need to be scraped manually or mechanically.

Relationship to Other Erosion and Sediment Control Measures

Erosion and sediment control measures in the contributing areas must be in place to minimize the amount of sediment that must be swept. Stabilized Construction Exit (BMP-23 and BMP-24) or Tire Wash (BMP-36 and BMP-37) should be included in the contract. Street Sweeping and Vacuuming for Sediment Control is a secondary measure to remove residual sediment that was not removed by other measures. Well-maintained stabilized construction exits, vehicle tracking controls, and tire wash facilities can help reduce the necessary frequency of Street Sweeping and Vacuuming for Sediment Control.

Common Failures or Misuses

- Insufficient erosion controls in the contributing disturbed area.

SPECIFICATIONS

Standard Specifications

- 656 Street Sweeping and Vacuuming for Sediment Control