Requirements for Copper Roofs and Other Architectural Copper

Protect water quality during installation, cleaning, treating, and washing!

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION, CHECK WITH THE MUNICIPALITY ON ITS ARCHITECTURAL COPPER REQUIREMENTS

Copper from Buildings May Harm Aquatic Life

Copper can harm aquatic life in local creeks, the Delta and San Francisco Bay. Water that comes into contact with architectural copper may contribute to impacts, especially during installation, cleaning, treating, or washing. Patination solutions that are used to obtain the desired shade of green or brown typically contain acids. After treatment, when the copper is rinsed to remove these acids, the rinse water is a source of pollutants. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and local governments prohibit discharges to the storm drain of water used in the installation, cleaning, treating and washing of architectural copper.

Use Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be implemented to prevent prohibited discharges to storm drains.

During Installation

If possible, purchase copper materials that have been pre-patinated at the factory. If patination is done on-site, implement one or more of the following BMPs:

- Discharge the rinse water to landscaping. Ensure that the rinse water does not flow to the street or storm drain. Block off storm drain inlet if needed.
- Collect rinse water in a tank and pump to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local sanitary sewer agency before discharging to the sanitary sewer.
- Collect the rinse water in a tank and haul off-site for proper disposal.
- Consider coating the copper materials with an impervious coating that prevents further corrosion and runoff. This will also maintain the desired color for a longer time, requiring less maintenance.

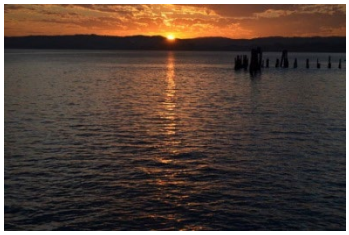
During Maintenance

Implement the following BMPs during routine maintenance activities, such as power washing the roof, re-patination or re-application of impervious coating:

- Block storm drain inlets as needed to prevent runoff from entering storm drains.
- Discharge the wash water to landscaping or to the sanitary sewer (with permission from the local sanitary sewer agency). If this is not an option, haul the wash water off-site for proper disposal.

Protect Local Creeks, the Delta, San Francisco Bay and yourself!

If you are responsible for a discharge to the storm drain of non-stormwater generated by installing, cleaning, treating or washing copper architectural features, you are in violation of the municipal stormwater ordinance and may be subject to a fine.



Contact Information

The Contra Costa Clean Water Program lists municipal stormwater contacts at cccleanwater.org/about-us/contact-us

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