

**STORM WATER
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE**

TIER 1

City of Santa Barbara



OUR GOAL



Storm water (rain) is a valuable resource. During rain events, storm water runs off **impervious** (hard) surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, and parking lots, instead of soaking into the ground. It rapidly flows into our streets and storm drains, which lead to our creeks and ocean untreated. This fast-flowing runoff can carry pollutants like oil, pet waste, and litter, and contribute to flooding of our streets and creeks.

Storm water management aims to mimic the natural environment by slowing storm water down and letting it soak into the soil (**infiltration**). Undeveloped natural areas act as a sponge by soaking up rain and reducing runoff, breaking down pollutants as the water infiltrates through the soil. This also reduces the flow of water to our streets and creeks, helping to reduce flooding.

The goal of the City's storm water management program is to ensure that as development and redevelopment of buildings and paved areas takes place in Santa Barbara, the storm water runoff is captured and treated—protecting our creeks and ocean, and reducing the risk of flooding.

STORM WATER REQUIREMENTS

The City of Santa Barbara regulates storm water runoff from new and redeveloped impervious surfaces in order to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act, the State's General Storm Water Permit, and Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements.

There are four tiers of storm water requirements, based on project size. This handout summarizes Tier 1 requirements. Detailed information can be found in the City's Storm Water BMP Technical Guidance Manual at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SWMP.



Infiltrative Design



Non-Infiltrative Design

Is your project Tier 1?

Tier 1 projects include a total proposed new and/or redeveloped impervious area of **less than 500 square feet**.

New impervious area = hardscape surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, and roofing proposed over existing pervious area.

Redeveloped impervious area = hard surfaces proposed over existing impervious area.

Tier 1 projects in Santa Barbara can meet requirements with simple, affordable solutions that do not require engineering.

MANAGING STORM WATER



Tier 1 requirements are met by installing one of the following Storm Water Runoff **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**. There are no calculations or volume capacities required to be shown for Tier 1 projects.

Did you know?

1" of rain falling on 1 square foot of impervious area generates 0.62 gallons of storm water (*e.g., 500 sq ft x 0.62 gallons/sq ft = 310 gallons*).

The following BMP examples are the most commonly used to meet Tier 1 requirements:

- Redirecting runoff to permeable areas such as landscaping
- Removing existing impervious surfaces
- Installing rain barrels/cisterns
- Installing rain gardens/bioretenention areas

Additional BMP options can be found in Chapters 2 and 6 of the City's Storm Water BMP Technical Guidance Manual at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SWMP.

BMP EXAMPLES

1 DISCONNECTING DOWNSPOUTS

The most common and simple BMP for Tier 1 projects is redirecting runoff from new or existing roof downspouts, patios, and driveways into relatively flat (less than 7% grade) vegetated or mulched permeable areas on site. The permeable area should be at least 18 inches wide.



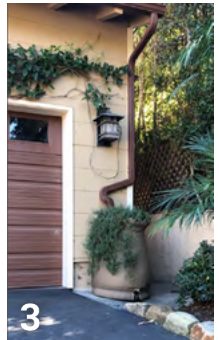
2 REMOVING IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

Removing existing impervious surfaces greater than 12 square feet in size can fully meet Tier 1 requirements. Examples of removing hardscape include installation of a ribbon driveway, replacing a driveway with a permeable pavement option, or converting a concrete patio with landscaping. The addition of 12 square feet of planters situated on existing impervious area also complies.



3 RAIN BARRELS AND CISTERNS

These containers capture and temporarily store water for non-potable reuse such as irrigation. Rain barrels are typically small (50-100 gallons) and placed at a downspout location, while cisterns are larger and can be installed above or below ground. Installation of a rain barrel is sufficient to comply with Tier 1 requirements.



4 RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens or bioretention areas use shallow depressions, natural or constructed, to retain and infiltrate storm water runoff. Artificial depressions should be constructed through excavation as opposed to berm construction, and should be shallow in depth (generally no more than 6 - 8 inches).



For more ideas and inspiration, view our BMP Visual Guide at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SWMP.

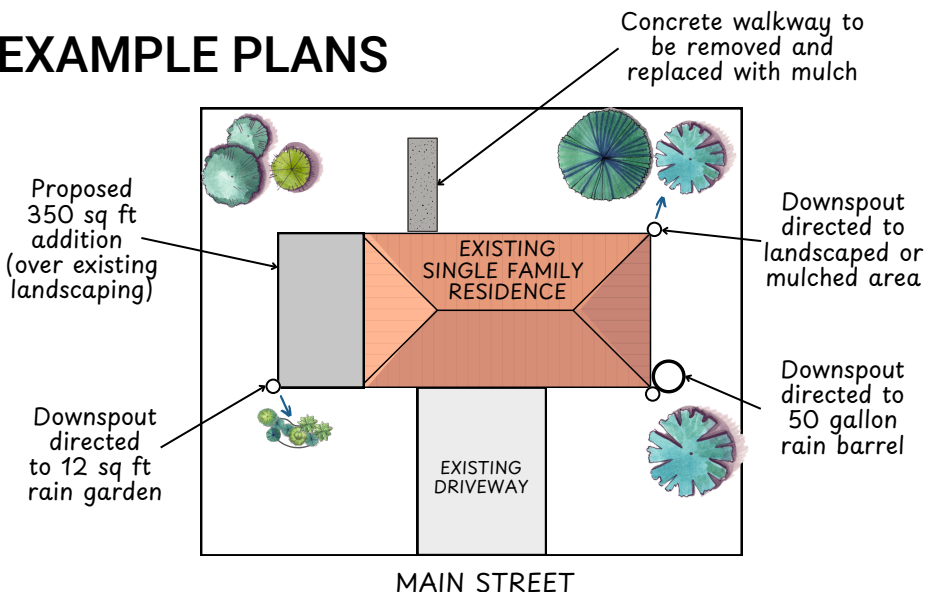
HOW TO COMPLY

A storm water report is not needed to satisfy Tier 1 requirements. Project plans must show the compliance methods and include three components:

1. On your site plan, show the proposed new, redeveloped, and removed impervious areas; ensure that site surfaces are labeled and that the plan sheet is properly scaled.
2. Show the location of the proposed BMP and a cross-section detail of that BMP.
3. On your plan cover sheet, state the proposed storm water BMP(s) in the Scope of Work section (or equivalent), and include signed and dated BMP Maintenance Statement.

Tier 1 BMPs do not require any sizing calculations. Installing any one of the basic BMP options outlined here or in the Storm Water BMP Technical Guidance Manual will comply with Tier 1 requirements. Many applicants propose multiple BMPs due to the aesthetic and environmental benefits.

EXAMPLE PLANS



EXAMPLE PLANS

Storm Water Management

Proposed new impervious area:	350 sq ft
Proposed redeveloped impervious area:	0 sq ft
Removed impervious area:	0 sq ft
<u>Total new & redeveloped:</u>	350 sq ft

Proposed Rain Barrel*

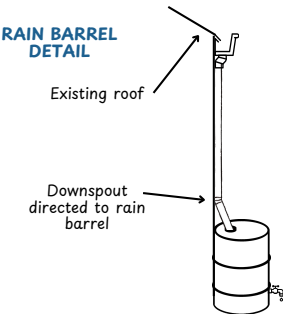
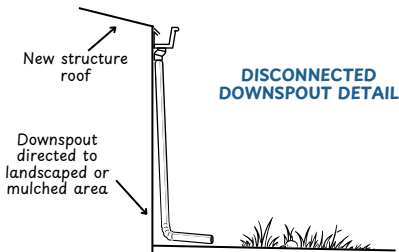
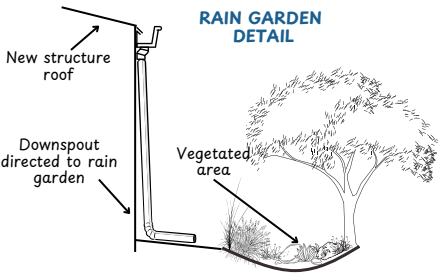
50 gallons
*include make and model

Proposed Rain Garden

12 sq ft

Proposed Removal of Impervious Surfaces

*Note on plan amount of square feet to be removed, type of material to be removed, and material to be placed



Have questions or need help complying with the City’s storm water requirements?

Email us at SWMP@SantaBarbaraCA.gov or visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SWMP



City of Santa Barbara
**SUSTAINABILITY
& RESILIENCE**



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April 2025