

Why do we inspect businesses?

The City inspects industrial and commercial businesses operating in Oakland that are reasonably likely to contribute pollutants, such as chemicals and trash, to stormwater.

The City must conduct these inspections to comply with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations, and to ensure that businesses are following Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 13.16.070, Creek Protection, Storm Water Management and Discharge Control.

Initial inspections are usually not scheduled with the business ahead of time. All inspections are invoiced (see reverse form for more info). Re-inspections are within a prescribed time after an initial inspection documents violations, and if the business has not provided adequate documentation of corrected violations. Re-inspections incur additional fees.

Save money, time, and the environment by complying with laws and preventing stormwater pollution.

In Oakland, all storm drains lead directly to creeks, lakes, and the San Francisco Bay. Only clean stormwater is permitted in the City's storm drain system.



Prepare for your inspection and protect stormwater year-round with the 4 C's

1. **Cover** outdoor work and storage areas. Repair any leaks or cracks in the cover.
2. **Capture** fluids and other pollutants before they run to a storm drain and/or the street, including spills from fueling areas, vehicle and equipment maintenance areas, and rooftop equipment.
3. **Clean** up spills, trash, and debris before material reaches the storm drain inlet. Use dry clean-up methods (sweeping, absorbents) to clean spills indoors and outdoors.
4. **Contain** trash and stored fluids to prevent discharges. Use secondary containment for chemical/material storage.

Correcting violations

If violations are observed during the inspection(s), required corrective actions are documented in inspection report(s), in a letter provided to the business representative during the inspection(s), and in email(s) sent to the business after the inspection(s).

Learn More

www.oaklandca.gov/services/business-stormwater-inspections

Business Stormwater Inspection Program



CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC WORKS

Watershed & Stormwater
Management Division
(510) 238-6600
watersheds@oaklandca.gov

**Para la versión en español,
por favor visite**

如需中文版，請訪問

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Which businesses are inspected, and how often?

Businesses inspected every two years are those:

- subject to California's Industrial General Stormwater Permit or defined by the Oakland Municipal code as industrial.
- with underground storage tanks and/or fueling.
- that use/store hazardous materials and regulated by the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).
- that have a high potential to be a source of the following pollutants of concern: mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), copper, and pesticides.
- that are inspected through this program and have a prior stormwater discharge violation per Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 13.16.

Business inspected every five years include:

- Food, automotive, construction-related, manufacturing, and other commercial businesses with a high potential to discharge pollutants into the City's storm drain system or into waterways.

How much will my business be charged?

The fees are based on the estimated time it takes to conduct an inspection, which varies by the type of business. The fees are published and periodically updated in the City of Oakland Master Fee Schedule.

Inspection fees are charged upon the inspection's completion. A flat rate is charged for an initial inspection according to facility type. If re-inspection(s) are necessary, an additional hourly rate charge will be listed on the invoice. Each invoice also includes a 14.75% fee to cover electronic records management and technology licensing fees.

Effective January 19, 2022:

- Businesses subject to the state's Industrial General Permit (IGP): \$381.33
- Industrial business not subject to the IGP: \$282.18
- Commercial businesses: \$190.66
- Re-inspection rate for uncorrected violations: \$152.51/hour

Why does the City charge a fee?

Starting in August 2019, the City began charging a fee for all business stormwater inspections and re-inspections conducted to recover program implementation costs.

3 Ways to Pay Invoices

1. Visa or Mastercard by calling the cashier's office at 510-238-4774.
2. At an in-person appointment scheduled via shorturl.at/cfpRY
3. Send check, cashier's check, or money order payable to City of Oakland.

Write the record number (FDSWC42X-XXXXX) on your check.

Mail to

Oakland Public Works Stormwater
c/o Planning & Building
Attention: Cashier Station
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

What if my business does not pay its invoice?

If not paid before 60 days, a late fee of 10% of the initial invoice amount will be applied to the invoice.

If not paid before 90 days, another late fee of 10% of the initial invoice amount will be applied to the invoice.

Invoices 120 days past due will result in consequences including, but not limited to, referral to collections, additional fees, and/or legal action.