



# Building Department Newsletter

---

September 2008

## Special points of interest:

- Who is Rob Buchert?
- Wired Glazing Located in Doors and Walls
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
- New Minimum Residential Window Sill Height

## Who is Rob Buchert?

Rob Buchert is the new Stormwater Services Manager at the City of Pullman. He started working for the City in December 2007. Rob previously worked at the Palouse Conservation District for the last 10 years. While at the District he worked with private landowners, who were mostly farmers and ranchers, to promote good stewardship and improve the condition of their land by installing best management practices. Rob's role at the City will be to act as a single point of contact and coordinator for stormwater related issues and help to ensure that the City is able to meet new State requirements. This will include maintenance of the City's storm drain system, reducing illicit discharges, monitoring construction site erosion control and other stormwater pollution prevention activities. It will be Rob's job to make sure the rain and snow that

falls on Pullman makes its way to the South Fork Palouse River in a manner that causes the least amount of problems and gets there as clean as possible. Rob can be reached by phone at (509) 338-3314 or email [rob.buchert@pullman-wa.gov](mailto:rob.buchert@pullman-wa.gov).



## WINTER IS COMING!

## ARE YOU PREPARED?

## Save Yourself the Trouble - Install Erosion Control BMPs Before It Rains!

---

## Wired Glazing Located in Doors and Walls

Building codes have historically allowed the use of wired glazing in place of safety glazing in select applications such as view panels in fire doors. The 2006 International Building Code and International Residential Code require all glazing, except plastic glazing, glass block, louvered windows and жалousies, located in areas subject to human impact be tested in accordance with Consumer Prod-

uct Safety Commission (CPSC) 16 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 1201. Wired glazing is no longer permitted in any application where the glass is identified in the International Codes as subject to human impact unless it has been tested in accordance with CPSC 16 CFR part 1201.

# Building Department Newsletter

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan: The New and Improved Erosion Control Plan for Construction Sites

### Each SWPPP must include the following 12 elements:

1. **Preserve Vegetation/ Mark Clearing Limits**
2. **Establish Construction Access**
3. **Control Flow Rates**
4. **Install Sediment Controls**
5. **Stabilize Soils**
6. **Protect Slopes**
7. **Protect Drain Inlets**
8. **Stabilize Channels & Outlets**
9. **Control Pollutants**
10. **Control De-Watering**
11. **Maintain BMPs**
12. **Manage the Project**

The City of Pullman Design Standards currently require an erosion control plan be approved and that all **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** be installed prior to issuing a Building Permit. However, there are a few changes on the horizon that construction site operators should be aware of. These changes were covered in the January 2007 newsletter which can be found on the City's website along with all previous newsletters at [www.pullman-wa.gov/DrawOnePage.aspx?PageID=778](http://www.pullman-wa.gov/DrawOnePage.aspx?PageID=778).

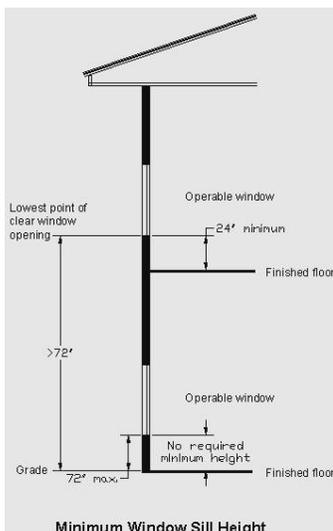
Since February 2007, the City has been under the NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (Phase II Permit) which requires a greater effort at protecting the quality of stormwater runoff. Construction sites in Pullman have been identified by WA Dept. of Ecology as a major contributor of sediment and other pollutants to local waterways. By including Pullman in the Phase II Permit, the State has sent a clear message that we need to make stormwater pollution prevention a bigger priority than we have in the past.

By February 2010, the City of Pullman will adopt an ordinance requiring construction site operators to prepare a **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)** and apply BMPs as necessary to protect water quality and reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent

practicable". The SWPPP will replace the erosion control plan and will include both erosion control practices and control of waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, harmful chemicals, litter and sanitary waste. The City will likely adopt most (if not all) of the **Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington** as its primary reference for BMP selection, design, installation, operation and maintenance standards. This document can be found on Ecology's website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0410076.html>.

For smaller projects (single-family residential and small commercial), the SWPPP will be less complex, but for larger sites (sub-divisions and large commercial projects) we recommend using the SWPPP template on Ecology's website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction>.

Each SWPPP should be tailored to address the unique characteristics of individual sites. Stay tuned for future articles that will explore each of the 12 SWPPP elements, highlight BMPs and identify training opportunities. All questions can be directed to Rob Buchert, Stormwater Services Program Manager at (509) 338-3314 or email [rob.buchert@pullman-wa.gov](mailto:rob.buchert@pullman-wa.gov).



## New Minimum Residential Window Sill Height

The building code has cited a maximum egress window sill height since the 1970's. In an effort to reduce the number of injuries to small children that fall from open windows in houses and apartment buildings each year the 2006 I.R.C. and the 2006 I.B.C. have now set a **minimum** window sill height. Both codes now require **all exterior windows** in new houses and apartment buildings that are installed more than 72 inches above the exterior grade to be located at least 24 inches

above the interior floor. The intent is to raise the window sill height above the center of gravity of small children. There is an exception that allows glazing to be located between the floor and 24 inches above the floor if it is fixed glazing, or the window in the open position will not pass a 4 inch sphere, or is equipped with guards that comply with ASTM F 2006, or ASTM F 2090 for egress windows. For the full code text go to IRC Section 613.2 or IBC Section 1405.12.2