



Storm Preparation & Slope Maintenance Tips

The City of Beverly Hills encourages the public to plan ahead to reduce the damaging effects of storms. Prior to the beginning of rainy season, serious consideration should be given to determining what problems might arise, and how to mitigate those issues. Heavy and sustained rainfall from storms may cause extensive property damage. Review the slope maintenance tips below, and contact a professional slope maintenance expert for additional recommendations.

WHEN TO PREPARE

Planning and preparing against storms **before the rain begins**, especially in hillside areas, can reduce or eliminate impacts. Once the mud and debris start to flow, it's too late to plan for protection; put your plans into action when weather reports predict storms.

HOW TO PREPARE (SLOPE MAINTENANCE)

- **Inspect & Maintain All Drainage Devices.**

Inspect and remove accumulated dirt and debris from catch basins, grates, v-ditches, underground drainage piping, and all other drainage ways. Repair cracks or gaps in all drainage devices to prevent water from seeping into the slope.

- **Discuss Slope Concerns with Neighbors.**

Drainage devices may cross property lines; therefore, it is important to be observant of potential problems on neighboring properties. Talk to your neighbors if they have broken sprinklers, if they are over irrigating, if you see water draining from their property onto the slope, or if you observe broken or blocked terrace drains. Water backed up in surface drains can overflow and seep into the terraces, creating less stable slopes.

- **Install Drought-Tolerant Ground Cover.**

Landscaping selected for slope planting should develop deep root structures, require little water and be fire retardant; avoid ice plant because it is heavy and has a shallow root structure. Hillside landscaping is very effective in providing slope erosion control. Replant bare spots as soon as possible (*refer to Water Efficient Landscaping requirements below*).

- **Do Not Over-Irrigate Slope Landscaping.**

Consider consulting a landscape professional for advice concerning appropriate watering schedules and watch for irrigation runoff. Over-saturation of the ground is not only unnecessary and expensive but can cause subsurface damage.

- **Do Not Drain Directly to Slopes.**

Water should not flow or to drain directly over the top of slopes. This tends to cause erosion, which can be difficult to control and severe damage may result rather quickly.

- **Do Not Dispose of Soil or Debris on Slopes.**

Loose soil or debris should not be left on or tossed over slopes to prevent soil slides. The sliding may clog terrace drains below or may cause additional damage in weakening the slope. If you live below a slope, try to be sure that loose soil is not dumped above your property.

- **Do Not Allow Water to Pond Against Retaining Walls.**

If water ponds against retaining walls, it may seep through the wall and cause the soil adjacent to the foundation to swell resulting in significant structural damage to the wall.

- **Monitor Movement & Property Condition Changes.**

Be observant of damage potentially caused by slope movement, such as widening cracks in flatwork or walls, or doors and windows that stick. Consider measuring, photographing and/or marking cracks to determine if they are growing over time. Other warning signs may include water flowing or seeping out of the base of the hillside, substantial erosion or other significant earth movement on the face of the slope. Also be attentive to any major rotation or tilting of retaining walls and/or drainage devices on or near the slope.



HOW TO PREPARE (ADDITIONAL PROTECTION MEASURES)

SANDBAGS

- Sandbags should be used to divert flows away from improvements and onto the street or a natural watercourse by creating a channel or path for debris. Between storms be sure to remove any residual debris and/or silt from these channels to prevent dangerous build-up. Improperly placed sandbags may cause more damage than if they had not been used at all (*refer to sandbag resource below*).

PLASTIC SHEETING

- Cover bare slopes on your property that may become unstable when saturated. Spread plastic sheeting across the slope and use stakes at the corners to secure it to the slope.
- Make sure that water running off the plastic sheeting is directed to the street or other non-erosive device such as a paved terrace drain, driveway, or walkway. Avoid any concentration of flow onto the slopes that would cause erosion.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING & METERING REQUIREMENTS:

www.beverlyhills.org/WELOrequirements

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS:

www.beverlyhills.org/WinterStormPreparednessGuide

EMERGENCY PROPERTY PROTECTION: SANDBAGS

www.beverlyhills.org/sandbag

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

www.beverlyhills.org/OEM



CONTACT

For life-threatening situations, call 911.

Immediate Emergency Assistance: during a flood event, call (310) 550-4951.

To ask a question, request permit information, or report a Code Enforcement violation, use [AskBev](#), or call (310) 285-1141.

