



LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

What is the LID Ordinance and how does it apply to you?

The City of LA needs your help to build sustainable projects that capture, treat and reuse rainwater to help make neighborhoods greener.



What is LID?

Low Impact Development (LID) is a leading stormwater management strategy that seeks to mitigate the impacts of runoff and stormwater pollution as close to its source as possible. Urban runoff discharged from municipal storm drain systems is one of the principal causes of water quality challenges in most urban areas. It can contain pollutants such as trash and debris, bacteria and viruses, oil and grease, sediments, nutrients, metals, and toxic chemicals that can adversely affect the ocean, rivers, plant and animal life, and public health.

LID consists of site design approaches and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are designed to address runoff and pollution at the source. These LID practices can effectively remove nutrients, bacteria, and metals while reducing the volume and intensity of stormwater flows.

The Ordinance was developed by LA Sanitation in collaboration and coordination with community members, environmental organizations, business groups and the building industry.

How does the LID Ordinance affect me?

The LID ordinance requires rainwater from a three-quarter inch rainstorm to be captured, infiltrated and/or used onsite at most developments and redevelopments where more than 500 square feet of hardscape is added. Most single family residences can comply in even simpler ways by installing adequate Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as rain barrels, permeable pavement, rainwater storage tanks, or infiltration swales to contain the water.

When did the LID Ordinance become effective?

The ordinance was adopted in November 2011 and will officially become effective on May 12, 2012. The main purpose of the LID Ordinance is to ensure that development and redevelopment projects mitigate runoff in a manner that captures rainwater at its source, while utilizing natural resources.

How is LID different from the Standard Urban Mitigation Plan [SUSMP]?

The LID Ordinance requires stormwater mitigation for a larger number of development and redevelopment categories than was previously required under SUSMP. All development and redevelopment projects that create, add, or replace 500 square feet or more of impervious area need to comply with the LID Ordinance.

Photo taken at the WaterMarke Tower in Downtown Los Angeles. City staff and the building developers devised creative solutions that made it possible for this property to be water friendly, such as the green roof you see featured in this picture. It's a great example of how every project, regardless of green space limitations, can incorporate LID practices.

LID is the most effective & cost-efficient means of managing stormwater & reducing water pollution.

Other LID benefits include:

- water conservation
- groundwater recharge
- greening communities

To learn more about LID download the **Development Best Management Practices Handbook** by visiting LAstormwater.org



What is the plan approval process?

The City of LA will review all plans for new development and redevelopment projects to ensure that the appropriate BMPs are incorporated to address stormwater pollution prevention goals. During the review process, the plans will be reviewed for compliance with the City's General Plans, zoning ordinances, and other applicable local ordinances and codes, including stormwater requirements. The reviewer will also determine if project designs need to be modified to address stormwater pollution prevention objectives. Depending on the scale and the type of the project, the review and approval process can take between 2-6 weeks.

