

Drainage & Stormwater Management on Coastal Bluffs

Wintertime as a shoreline homeowner can be stressful. Excessive rain and wind can accelerate erosion issues especially if you reside on a coastal bluff. Our Shore Friendly Program has compiled a list of Do's and Don'ts when it comes to drainage and stormwater management to help you navigate the season.

What kind of problems should you be looking for?

It's important to be familiar with your property's drainage system so you can spot potential drainage problems like these:

- **Drainage pipes:** Cracked or damaged pipes can result in increased erosion.
- **Seepage:** Seepage is visible on the exposed bluff face.
- **Clogging:** Drainage system is clogged with sediment or debris.
- **Pooling:** Pools of standing water in low-lying areas.
- **Erosion:** Cracking, water seepage, or undercutting in a bluff are all signs of erosion that can lead to instability.

What To-Do:

When it comes to implementing best management practices for improving stormwater management on your property, there are a wide range of options:

Water Collection: Use rain barrels to collect roof runoff. Use the water for irrigation.

Minimize building footprint: Build up not out. The larger the setback from bluff or beach = lower risk and safer home.

Minimize the size of impervious surfaces like driveways. Drain rainwater to a professionally identified safe place away from structures and into vegetated areas.

Direct water laterally away from bluff and structures. Stormwater should not be directed to drain freely down a bluff face.

Install drainage and collection system to pipe water to the beach. Always replace your cracked or damaged pipes.

Design drainage outfall to slow and spread water. Don't let drainpipes or surface runoff spill down the unprotected face of a bluff.

Plant native vegetation: Native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and soils require less irrigation, improve soil stability, and soak up extra runoff. Monitor vegetation growth and health.