

Certification Exams

*LEED
Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Exam*



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Question: 1

Impervious materials contribute to which of the following? (choose 2)

- A. Infiltration of storm water runoff
- B. Soil erosion
- C. Sedimentation in local waterways
- D. All of the above

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

Impervious surfaces are those that inhibit the absorption of precipitation into the ground, thereby promoting runoff that can carry entrained pollutants into the municipal water supply and aquatic ecosystem. LEED encourages and recognizes planning, design, and operational practices that control storm water and the quality of both surface and ground water.

Question: 2

Strategies for reducing and controlling storm water runoff include: (choose 3)

- A. Harvesting rainwater
- B. Building projects with larger footprints
- C. Vegetated roofs
- D. Increasing pervious materials

Answer: A,C,D

Explanation:

Strategies for stormwater management include:

Minimizing impervious surfaces by increasing the area of permeable surfaces, using porous paving material and open grid pavers

- Controlling stormwater by directing runoff into dry ponds, rain gardens, bioswales, and other features designed to hold water and slow runoff
- Capturing rainwater for nonpotable use

Projects with larger footprints have greater, not fewer, pervious surfaces, and diverting runoff into oceans dumps pollutants into the aquatic ecosystem. Vegetated roofs and cisterns are often used to control stormwater.

Question: 3

What is the term used by the EPA for storm water runoff with entrained contaminants carried into rivers and streams?

- A. Flood water
- B. Contaminated water
- C. Nonpoint source pollution
- D. Localized pollution

Answer: C

Explanation:

The EPA identifies nonpoint source pollution as one of the biggest threats to surface water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Question: 4

The three categories of water use are: (choose 3)

- A. Indoor water
- B. Outdoor water
- C. Process water
- D. Sanitary water

Answer: ABC

Explanation:

Indoor water is the water that occupied buildings use daily to operate (toilets, showers, sinks, etc.). Outdoor water is the water use to irrigate. Process water is the water that is used in industrial processes and building systems (cooling towers, boilers, chillers, washing machines, dishwashers, etc.).

Question: 5

Municipally-supplied water is America's primary source water for domestic, commercial, and industrial use. What is this water called?

- A. Well water
- B. Potable water
- C. Gray water
- D. Recycled water

Answer: B

Explanation:

As the demand for potable water increases, so does wastewater, which thereby increases the

pressure placed on treatment facilities. Untreated water can overflow and contaminate rivers, lakes, and other sources of potable water. The construction of additional water treatment plants is costly and does not solve the problem of controlled, ever-increasing demand. LEED encourages and recognizes efficiencies that significantly reduce the quantity of potable water used, while still meeting the needs of its systems and occupants.

Question: 6

Non-potable water can be used for which of the following? (choose 3)

- A. Flushing toilets
- B. Watering plants
- C. Washing clothes
- D. Cooling HVAC equipment

Answer: ABD

Explanation:

Non-potable water is defined as water that is not suitable for human consumption without being treated to meet or exceed the EPA's drinking water standards. Each day, the US population withdraws an estimated 400 billion gallons of water from fresh water rivers, streams, and reservoirs to support residential, industrial, commercial, and recreational activities. This accounts for approximately one-fourth of the US supply of fresh water. Nearly 65% of this water is then discharged to rivers, streams, and other water bodies after use and, sometimes, treatment. The US extracts 3,700 gallons of water more per year than we return to the natural water system in order to recharge our water supply. Many of the activities for which potable water is used can be safely replaced with non-potable water.

Question: 7

Which of the following is a result of overwhelmed wastewater treatment facilities?

- A. Slow water delivery
- B. Increased supply of water
- C. Overflow of untreated water
- D. All the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

Strained wastewater treatment facilities can overflow bacteria, toxic metals, and nitrogen into sources of potable water.

Question: 8

Efficiency strategies, combined with sub metering, can improve indoor water conservation in commercial buildings. What are some other advantages of sub metering? (choose 3)

- A. Monitor water use
- B. Track fixture performance
- C. Choose irrigation systems
- D. Identify problems

Answer: ABD

Explanation:

Submetering allows commercial buildings' operational staff to track how much water is being used for plumbing fixtures and how well the fixtures are performing. It also alerts staff if problems arise in the system.

Question: 9

How can indoor water use be reduced? (choose 3)

- A. Use non-potable water
- B. Install sub meters
- C. Install water fountains
- D. Install efficient plumbing fixtures

Answer: ABD

Explanation:

Using non-potable water reduces indoor water use by using the appropriate water, such as captured rain water, gray water, or reclaimed water for non-human consumption usage, such as for flush fixtures. Installing submeters reduces indoor water use by enabling the meter to monitor indoor water systems, track consumption, and identify problems early. Installing efficient plumbing fixtures reduces indoor water use by replacing fixtures that use a lot of water with new, low-flow or no-flush fixtures and by installing new flush valves or flow restrictors to decrease the water use of existing fixtures.

Question: 10

A plumbing fixture that uses less water than specified in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct 1992) requirements is called what?

- A. Slow-flow fixture
- B. Low-flow fixture
- C. No-flush fixture
- D. Conservation fixture

Answer: B

Explanation:

Also available are composting toilets and non-water-using urinals. Composting toilets are dry plumbing fixtures that contain and treat human waste via microbiological processes. Non-water-using urinals use no water; instead the water flush is replaced by a specially designed trap that contains a layer of buoyant liquid that floats above the urine layer, blocking sewer gas and odors.

Question: 11

When accessing water usage systems, a project team should consider all the following, EXCEPT:

- A. Baseline versus design
- B. Geographical location
- C. Gallons per flush
- D. Gallons per minute

Answer: B

Explanation:

In addition to A, C, and D, another point that a project team should consider is irrigation efficiency. Baseline versus design considers the amount of water the design case conserves over the baseline case. The baseline case represents the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct 1992) flow and flush rates. Gallons per flush (gpf) record the amount of water used by a flush fixture each time it is flushed. The baseline flush rate for water closets is 1.6 gpf, for urinals 1.0 gpf. Gallons per minute refers to the amount of water used by flow fixtures per minute. Irrigation efficiency refers to the percentage of water delivered by irrigation equipment that is actually used for irrigation and is not evaporated or blown away or falls on hardscape.

Question: 12

Which of the following irrigation systems is the least efficient?

- A. Drip
- B. bubbler
- C. Spray
- D. Weather-based system

Answer: C

Explanation:

Spray systems have an efficiency of 65%, while drip systems have a 90% efficiency.

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