

Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives



Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry

Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains flow directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean with no treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or wetlands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

All of the cities in San Mateo County have joined together with San Mateo County and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to educate local residents and businesses and fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

Who should use this brochure?

- Painters

Storm drain pollution from paints, solvents, and adhesives

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife in local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. Toxic chemicals may come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues or rags. It is especially important not to clean brushes in an area where paint residue can flow to a gutter, street, or storm drain.

- Paperhangers
- Plasterers
- Graphic artists
- Dry wall crews
- Floor covering installers
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers

What Can You Do?

Handling Paint Products

- **Keep all liquid paint products and wastes away from the gutter, street, and storm drains.** Liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes and must be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection facility (contact your local stormwater program).

Painting cleanup

- **Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or stream.**
- For **water-based paints**, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and rinse to the sanitary sewer. Never pour paint down a drain.
- For **oil-based paints**, paint out brushes to the extent possible and clean with thinner or solvent in a proper container. Filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of excess liquids and residue as hazardous waste.

Paint removal

- **Paint chips and dust from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting** may be swept up or collected in plastic drop cloths and disposed of as

trash.

- **Chemical paint stripping residue** and chips and dust from **marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin** must be disposed of as hazardous wastes.
- When stripping or cleaning **building exteriors** with high-pressure water, block storm drains. Wash water onto a dirt area and spade into soil. Or, check with the local wastewater treatment authority to find out if you can collect (mop or vacuum) building cleaning water and dispose to the sanitary sewer. Sampling of the water may be required to assist the wastewater treatment authority in making its decision.

Recycle/reuse leftover paints whenever possible.

- Recycle or dispose of excess **water-based paint** at a household hazardous waste collection facility, or use up. When they are thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags, and drop cloths may be disposed of as garbage in a sanitary landfill.
- Reuse leftover **oil-based paint**. Dispose of excess liquid, including sludges, as hazardous waste.
- Small quantity generators should check with the San Mateo County Environmental Health Division regarding recycling or hazardous waste disposal.
- Unopened cans of paint may be able to be returned to the paint vendor. Check with the vendor regarding its "buy-back" policy.



San Mateo Countywide
Stormwater Pollution Prevention
Program (STOPPP)
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

STOPPP gratefully acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program for the original concept and text of this brochure

