

Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or baylands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion; 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.

Thirteen valley municipalities have joined together with Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to educate local residents and businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Join us by following the practices described in this pamphlet.



Storm Drain Pollution from Paints, Solvents, and Adhesives

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife in local creeks and San Francisco Bay. Toxic chemicals may come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues or rags. Paint material and wastes, adhesives and cleaning fluids should be recycled when possible, or disposed of properly. Disposing of these materials to storm drains or creeks causes serious problems – and is prohibited by law.

Doing the Job Right

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 listed on the back of this brochure).
- When thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags, and drop cloths may be disposed of as garbage. Empty, dry paint cans also may be recycled as metal.

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 into a drain that goes to the sanitary sewer. Never pour paint down a storm 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, mercury or tributyl tin** must be disposed of as hazardous wastes. Lead based paint removal requires a state-certified contractor.
- When stripping or cleaning **building exteriors** with high-pressure water, block storm drains. Direct 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.
- Wash water from painted buildings constructed before 1978 can contain high amounts of lead, even if paint chips are not present. Before you begin stripping paint or cleaning pre-1978 building exteriors with water under high pressure, test paint for lead by taking paint scrapings to a local state-certified laboratory.

Leftover Paints

- Recycle or donate excess **water-based (latex) paint**, or return to supplier.
- Reuse leftover **oil-based paint**. Dispose of non-recyclable thinners, sludge, and unwanted paint, as hazardous waste.
- Unopened cans of paint may be able to be returned to the paint vendor. Check with the vendor regarding its "buy-back" policy.
- Small quantity generators should check with the Santa Clara County's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Disposal Program regarding recycling or hazardous waste disposal (see back of brochure for additional details).
- The PaintCare Program allows drop-off of leftover paint. Use www.paintcare.org to find a location near you.

Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are eligible to use Santa Clara County's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Disposal Program. Call (800) 207-8222 for a quote, more information or guidance on disposal.

Palo Alto operates a similar program, with monthly collection, for small businesses. Call the City of Palo Alto, (650) 496-6980, or Clean Harbors, 1-800-433-5060 for information or to schedule an appointment.

This brochure is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain pollution prevention measures for specific types of construction industry activities. Other pamphlets include:

General Construction and Site Supervision

Landscaping and Gardening

Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

Roadwork and Paving

Earth Moving and Heavy Equipment Operation

Dewatering Activities

Home Repair and Remodeling

For additional brochures, call **1-800-794-2482**



Last Updated: January 2015

Spill Response Agencies:

1. In the City of Santa Clara, call (408) 615-3080.
2. In the City of Palo Alto, call (650) 329-2413.
3. In the City of San José, dial 9-1-1 if hazardous materials enter the storm drain system. For non-hazardous spills, call (408) 945-3000.
4. In other cities, find the contact number at www.scvurppp-w2k.com/report_spill.shtml or **DIAL 9-1-1**
5. State Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours). **1-800-852-7550**
6. Santa Clara County's Illegal Dumping/ Discharge Hotline. (408) 918-3400

Local Pollution Control Agencies

- County of Santa Clara Integrated Waste Management Program. (408) 282-3180
- County of Santa Clara District Attorney Environmental Crimes Hotline. . . . (408) 299-TIPS
- Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline. 1-800-533-8414
- Santa Clara Valley Water District. (408) 265-2600
- Santa Clara Valley Water District Pollution Hotline. 1-888-510-5151
- San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. (408) 635-6600
Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga
- Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant
Serving Sunnyvale. (408) 730-7270
- Regional Water Quality Control Plant. (650) 329-2598
Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford
- Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region. (510) 622-2300

Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Construction Industry



Who should use this brochure?

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