

Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry



Who should use this brochure?

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

Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean 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.

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 stormwater pollution. Join us, by following the practices described in this pamphlet.

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 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 in a sanitary landfill. Empty, dry paint cans also may be recycled as metal.

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. Paint material and wastes, adhesives and cleaning fluids should be recycled when possible, or disposed of properly. Disposing of these materials to the storm drains or creeks causes serious problems – and is prohibited by law.

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.

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 San Mateo County Environmental Health Division regarding recycling or hazardous waste disposal (see back of brochure).

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.
- If there is loose paint on the building, or if the paint tests positive for lead, block storm drains. Check with the wastewater treatment plant to determine whether you may discharge water to the sanitary sewer, or if you must send it offsite for disposal as hazardous waste.



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 San Mateo County's Very Small Quantity Generator Program. Call (650) 655-6217 for a quote, more information or guidance on disposal.

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, Gardening, and Pool Maintenance*
- Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application*
- Roadwork and Paving*
- Earth Moving and Dewatering Activities*
- Heavy Equipment Operation*



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Spill Response Agencies:

Non-emergency calls:

1. San Mateo County Environmental Health Division's Household Hazardous Waste Hotline includes information for businesses: (650) 363-4718
2. For stormwater pollution prevention information and additional brochures visit the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program's web site at www.flowstobay.org or contact local stormwater programs (see list below).

Town of Atherton	(650) 752-0541
City of Belmont	(650) 595-7425
City of Brisbane	(415) 508-2130
City of Burlingame	(650) 558-7230
Town of Colma	(650) 757-8888
City of Daly City	(650) 991-8200
City of East Palo Alto	(650) 853-3197
City of Foster City	(650) 286-3270
City of Half Moon Bay	(650) 726-8260
Town of Hillsborough	(650) 375-7411
City of Menlo Park	(650) 330-6740
City of Millbrae	(650) 259-2339
City of Pacifica	(650) 738-3767
Town of Portola Valley	(650) 851-1700
City of Redwood City	(650) 780-7464
City of San Bruno	(650) 616-7160
City of San Carlos	(650) 802-4261
City of San Mateo	(650) 522-7350
City of S. San Francisco	(650) 877-8555
Town of Woodside	(650) 851-6790
County of San Mateo	(650) 599-7310

3. San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board: (510) 622-2300

Emergency calls only:

1. Dial 911
2. Governor's Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours): 1-800-852-7550