



## Home Repair and Remodeling

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollutants can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people. Common sources of 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 Valley Water to educate local residents and businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Join us in protecting the Bay and local creeks by following these Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the following construction activities:

- Painting and Paint Cleanup
- Concrete, Masonry, and Tile Work
- General Construction
- Landscaping/Foundation Work



*Never allow spills and leaks to enter storm drains. Federal, state, and local regulations prohibit any discharges other than rain into the storm drain.*

### Who should use this brochure?

- Homeowners
- Do-it-yourself remodelers
- General contractors

## Doing the Job Right

Keep waterway protection in mind whenever you or people you hire work on your house or property. The property owner is ultimately responsible for correcting any pollution problems caused by construction activities. Penalties may be more severe if storm drain pollution is not reported promptly.

### PAINTING

- All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife in our creeks and Bay. Toxic chemicals may come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues on rags. It is especially important not to clean brushes or painting equipment (buckets, pans, hoses, etc.) in an area where paint or paint cleanup water can flow to a gutter, street, or storm drain.
- Use excess paint, give it to a neighbor, drop it off at a hazardous waste event (see page 3 for more information), or take it to a Paint Care location (see [www.paintcare.org/states/california](http://www.paintcare.org/states/california)). Most household hazardous waste collection programs can recycle latex (water-based) paint.



# How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

## PAINTING CLEANUP

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers to landscaping, dirt areas or into a street, gutter, storm drain, or creek.
- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and then rinse into a drain to the sanitary sewer (e.g., indoor plumbing). Never pour paint down a storm drain inlet.
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible and then clean with thinner or solvent in a proper container. Filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of excess liquids as household hazardous waste.
- When paint cans, brushes, rags, and drop cloths are dry, dispose of them in the trash. Leave the lids off paint cans so the refuse collector can see that they are empty.
- Dispose of aerosol paint cans as household hazardous waste, or if empty, throw them away or recycle.

## PAINT REMOVAL

- Buildings constructed before 1978 may have lead paint. Test paint for lead using EPA-recognized test kits or by taking paint scrapings to a local laboratory.
- Chips and dust from paints containing lead, mercury, or tributyl-tin are hazardous wastes. Sweep up paint chips and dispose of as household hazardous waste.

## CONCRETE, MASONRY, AND TILE WORK

- Make sure that construction waste (e.g., concrete, stucco, cement wastewater, or residual materials) is collected, and disposed of only at authorized disposal areas. Do not dispose of construction waste in storm drains, ditches, streets, creeks, dirt areas, or the sanitary sewer.
- Store dry and wet concrete-related materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff, and away from storm drains or creeks. Store materials off the ground on pallets. Protect dry materials from the wind.
- Do not wash sweepings from exposed aggregate concrete into the street or storm drain. Collect and return sweepings to aggregate base stockpiles or dispose properly.
- Never wash excess concrete, grout, mortar, or other materials from mixing containers into streets or storm drains - collect in lined containers and dispose of properly once dried.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Collect and reuse excess abrasive gravel and sand.
- Never hose down streets or sidewalks.
- Avoid pouring concrete during wet weather to prevent uncured material from contacting stormwater runoff.

## GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

- Keep all construction materials and debris away from the street, gutter, and storm drain.
- During cleanup, check the street and gutters for sediment, refuse, trash, or debris. Look around the corner or downstream for material that may have already traveled away from your property. Sweep or vacuum immediately any tracking of sediment offsite and secure the sediment source to prevent further tracking. Never hose down streets or sidewalks.
- If you or your contractor keep a dumpster at your site, be sure it is securely covered with a lid or tarp when not in use. Check frequently for leaks. If the dumpster leaks, place a plastic liner underneath it to collect leaks. Never clean out a dumpster by hosing it down on the construction site – clean with dry methods, clean offsite, or replace dumpster.
- Place portable toilets and hand wash stations away from storm drains. Make sure they are equipped with containment pans (secondary containment) and are in good working order. Check frequently for leaks and fix or replace immediately.
- Establish and maintain effective perimeter controls and stabilize all construction entrances and exits to sufficiently control erosion, sediment discharges, and tracking of sediment offsite.

# How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

## LANDSCAPING/FOUNDATION WORK

- ☐ Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.
- ☐ Berm and cover stockpiles of sand, dirt or other construction material with tarps when rain is forecast or when they are not in use.
- ☐ Replant as soon as possible, with temporary vegetation such as annual grass seed if necessary. Revegetation provides excellent erosion control.
- ☐ Take care not to over apply pesticides, or before a rain event, and use up leftover supply. Rinse empty containers, and use rinsewater as you would use the product. Dispose of empty rinsed containers in the trash.
- ☐ Dispose of unused pesticide as hazardous waste.
- ☐ Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings. Many cities and landfills have yard waste collection and composting programs. Check with your municipality to see if yard waste pickup is available and what the collection requirements are.
- ☐ Do not sweep or blow landscape materials into the street or gutter. In areas with curbside pickup of yard waste, place clippings and pruning waste in approved bags or containers. Or take to a landfill that composts yard waste.
- ☐ In San José, leave yard waste for curbside recycling in piles in the street, 18 inches from the curb and completely out of the flow line to any storm drain.



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DISPOSAL

- ☐ For information, contact your City's program or the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program, (408) 299-7300.
- ☐ For Palo Alto residents, household hazardous waste is collected at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant, 2501 Embarcadero Way. Hours of collection are every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and first Friday of each month, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (650) 496-5910.
- ☐ Take the following to a HHW Disposal event:
  - Unused garden and household chemicals
  - Leftover paint
  - Used solvents
  - Paint stripping residue and rags
  - Used antifreeze

## RECYCLE

- ☐ Santa Clara Countywide recycling information including facility search: [RecycleStuff.us](http://RecycleStuff.us).
- ☐ Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program: [hhw.org](http://hhw.org).
- ☐ For City of Santa Clara, check the City's website for current list of non-exclusive franchise haulers.
- ☐ Wood, broken asphalt, and concrete (check with your local landfill).
- ☐ Water-based paints (in some communities).
- ☐ Used motor oil (curbside pickup in most communities).
- ☐ Clean Earth Inc. in San José has a service center for hazardous waste, soil, and electronic waste. Call (408) 295-0640 for more information.



# How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

## REUSE

- Donate new and gently used furniture, household products and building materials at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore ([restore.habitatebsv.org](http://restore.habitatebsv.org)) located in San Jose at 1608 Las Plumas Ave.
- Donate housewares and electronics at Goodwill ([goodwillsv.org/](http://goodwillsv.org/)) at any location across the Bay Area.

## COMPOST

- Plant material/tree branches, leaves, etc. can be composted at two San Jose locations of the Green Waste Zanker Resource Recovery Facility ([greenwaste.com](http://greenwaste.com)).

## DISPOSE AS TRASH

- Construction debris from small projects.
- Dry, empty paint cans, and dry spent brushes, rags, and drop cloths.
- Small amounts of dry mortar, grout, etc.

## 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 Program. Call (800) 207-8222 to learn about proper disposal options and hazardous waste disposal.
- Palo Alto operates a similar program, with a 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.



**Clean up all spills immediately. Do not flush spills into storm drains.**  
**Report any construction materials entering gutters, storm drains, or creeks to local spill response agencies immediately.**  
**Contact numbers can be found at [scvurppp.org/report-a-spill/](http://scvurppp.org/report-a-spill/) and below.**

## STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

**For spills or materials entering a creek, pond or reservoir call Valley Water's 24/7 Pollution Hotline: 1-888-510-5151**

**For more information on preventing stormwater pollution, contact your local agency during regular business hours:**

Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga  
(West Valley Communities) ..... (408) 354-4734  
Cupertino ..... (408) 777-3354  
Los Altos ..... (650) 947-2770  
Los Altos Hills..... (650) 941-7222  
Milpitas..... (408) 586-3365

Mountain View ..... (650) 903-6378  
Palo Alto..... (650) 329-2122  
San José ..... (408) 945-3000  
Santa Clara ..... (408) 615-3080  
Unincorporated Santa Clara County..... (408) 918-4609  
Sunnyvale..... (408) 730-7260