



## Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

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 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 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).

### 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.



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

## Doing the Job Right

### HANDLING PAINT PRODUCTS

- **Keep all liquid paint products and wastes away from the gutter, street, and storm drains.** Dispose of liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids as hazardous waste as per Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
- 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.

### PAINT REMOVAL

- 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.



# Doing the Job Right

## PAINTING CLEANUP CONT.

- 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 hazardous waste.

## PAINT REMOVAL

- Sweep up or collect paint chips and dust generated from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting into plastic drop cloths and dispose of as trash.
- **Chemical paint stripping residue** and chips and dust from **marine paints or paints containing lead, mercury or tributyltin** 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. Check with the local wastewater treatment authority to find out if you can dispose of collected (mop or vacuum) building cleaning water to the sanitary sewer. Sampling of the water may be required to assist the wastewater treatment authority in making its decision.
- 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. Contact your local solid waste authority to determine how lead based paint debris can be disposed.



## LEFTOVER PAINTS

- Recycle materials and wastes as feasible and appropriate, including solvents and water-based paints.
- Reuse leftover oil-based paint. Dispose of non-recyclable thinners, sludge, and unwanted paint, as hazardous waste.
- Unopened cans of paint may 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 below for additional details).
- The PaintCare Program allows drop-off of leftover paint. Use [www.paintcare.org](http://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 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.

## 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	Mountain View .....	(650) 903-6378
Cupertino .....	(408) 777-3354	Palo Alto .....	(650) 329-2122
Los Altos .....	(650) 947-2770	San José .....	(408) 945-3000
Los Altos Hills.....	(650) 941-7222	Santa Clara .....	(408) 615-3080
Milpitas.....	(408) 586-3365	Unincorporated Santa Clara County.....	(408) 918-4609
		Sunnyvale.....	(408) 730-7260