

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In the San Francisco Bay Area, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and the 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.



## 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 to prevent these materials from flowing into storm drains and watercourses.

### 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 1-888-BAYWISE for more information).
- 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.

#### *Recycle/Reuse Leftover Paints Whenever Possible.*

- 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.
- To locate local paint recycling facilities call 1-800-CLEANUP or go to [www.cleanup.org](http://www.cleanup.org)

### *Painting Cleanup*

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, French 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 and Building Cleaning*

- 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.
- Wash water from painted buildings constructed before 1978 can contain high amounts of lead, even without paint chips. Before you begin pressure washing or stripping pre-1978 building exteriors, test paint for lead by taking paint scrapings to a local laboratory. See Yellow Pages for a state-certified laboratory.
- 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.

## Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month (known as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators) can often take advantage of a county-wide small business hazardous waste disposal program. Call your local stormwater program (see numbers listed below,) county health department, or local fire department for more information

## Local Stormwater Quality Management Programs

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program  
951 Turner Court, Hayward, CA 94545  
510-670-5543

Contra Costa Clean Water Program  
255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553-4897  
925-313-2360

Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program  
1010 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield, CA 94585  
707-429-8930

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
P. O. Box 4186  
San Rafael, CA 94913  
415-499-6528

San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
555 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
650-599-1406

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program  
699 Town & Country Village  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
800-794-2482

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District  
450 Ryder Street, Vallejo, CA 94590  
707-644-8949

Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA)  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland CA 94612  
510-622-2326 or 1-888-BAYWISE

## State Agencies

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region (510) 622-2300

Department of Toxic Substances (for questions about hazardous waste, call the Public and Business Liaison Hotline, Regional Duty Officers at (800) 728-6942 or (800) 72TOXIC



## TO LEARN MORE CALL 1-888-BAYWISE

*BASMAA gratefully acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program for the original concept and text of this brochure.*

# Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

*Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry*



## Who should use this brochure?

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