

POLLUTION STORMWATER Prevention

PAINTING

Paints, solvents, adhesives and other toxic chemicals used in painting often make their way into the San Bernardino County storm drain system and do not get treated before reaching the Santa Ana River. This pollutes our drinking water and contaminates waterways, making them unsafe for people and wildlife. Follow these simple tips to prevent pollution and protect our health.



Water-Based Paints

Use water-based paints whenever possible. They are less toxic than oil-based paints and easier to clean up. Look for products labeled "latex" or "cleans with water."



Paint Removal

Sweep up paint stripping residue, chips and dust instead of hosing into the street and dispose of them safely at a household hazardous waste collection facility. Call (800) CLEANUP for the facility in your area.



Painting Cleanup

Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers in the street, gutter or near a storm drain. Clean water-based paints in the sink. Clean oil-based paints with thinner, which can be reused by putting it in a jar to settle out the paint particles and then pouring off the clear liquid for future use. Wrap dried paint residue in newspaper and dispose of it in the trash.

Exterior Paint Removal

When stripping or cleaning building exteriors with high-pressure water, block nearby storm drains and divert washwater onto a designated dirt area. Ask your local wastewater treatment authority if you can collect building cleaning water and discharge it to the sewer.



Recycling Paint

Recycle leftover paint at a household hazardous waste collection facility, save it for touch ups or give it to someone who can use it, like a theatre group, school, city or community organization.



To report illegal dumping or for more information on stormwater pollution prevention, call:

1 (800) CLEANUP

www.1800cleanup.org

