



Protecting Our Water

Waste from painting activities may include unused paint, wash water, containers, paint rags, painting equipment, used paint thinner, or paint chips. These can be harmful if they make their way into the storm drain system.

Storm drains lead right to our creeks and streams. Paint waste dumped into storm drains can pollute our streams and drinking water.

Following best management practices for working with paint can prevent water pollution. Remember- it is against the law in Durham for anything but stormwater to go down the storm drain.



SITE PREPARATION AND PAINT REMOVAL

Use a tarp to collect paint chips during removal.

Non lead-based paint chips/dust may be vacuumed or swept up and put in trash.

Lead paint chips and dust are hazardous waste. Hazardous waste disposal procedures must be used.

CLEANUP AND DISPOSAL OF PAINT AND EQUIPMENT

Do not rinse/clean brushes and equipment where wash water could go into the street, storm drainage system or a waterway.

Latex paint-- remove excess paint from brushes and rollers with rags. Rinse and dispose of wastewater into a sink connected to the sanitary sewer. Add sand, kitty litter, or shredded paper to the paint can and leave it open (under a roof). Dry out paint completely and dispose of it in the trash.

Oil-based paint-- Use paint thinner to clean brushes. Dispose of paint thinner and excess paint as hazardous waste.

For wastewater, call the City of Durham Pretreatment Coordinator at (919) 560-4381 for more information about requirements for disposal to the sanitary sewer system.

Remember that it is illegal to open a sewer manhole.

Cities like Durham are required by federal permit to keep pollution out of storm drains

These federal permits require the city to have a program to keep stormwater as clean as possible. These permits are called National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES permits. They help protect local water so it can be used for drinking, fishing, and swimming.

Durham was issued its first NPDES permit in 1995. The Water Quality unit of Public Works carries out many parts of the city's stormwater management program.

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BEST PRACTICES FOR THE PAINTING INDUSTRY

STORMWATER POLLUTION
PREVENTION

