

HOME REPAIR AND REMODELING

Paints, solvents, adhesives, dusts, sediments, pesticides, and household toxics commonly associated with home repair and remodeling activities often make their way into the “*permit-holding entity name here*” storm sewer system and DO NOT GET TREATED before reaching the local waterways. These wastes pollute drinking water and make waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.

The following practices will help prevent storm water pollution.

Household Hazardous Wastes

Common household cleaners, paint products, and wallpaper and tile adhesives contain toxic substances. Dispose of these products properly. REMEMBER: Toxic wastes should never enter the storm sewer system. For disposal information, call XXX-XXXX.

Construction

Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter, and storm sewer, and if possible, schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather. Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt, sand, etc., with plastic tarps, and prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses, which will shield and bind the soil.

Landscape and Gardening

Use fertilizers and pesticides as directed. Keep them away from ditches, gutters, and storm sewers, and store them in a covered area to prevent contact with storm water. Minimize runoff and conserve water by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or microspray systems. REMEMBER: Do not deposit leaves into the street, gutter, or storm sewer.

Painting

Cleanup – Avoid cleaning brushes or rinsing paint containers into a street, gutter, or storm sewer. For water-based paints, “brush out” as much paint as possible, and rinse in the sink. For oil-based paints, “brush out” as much paint as possible, clean with thinner, and then filter and reuse thinner or solvent.

Removal – Paint-stripping residue, chips, and dust from marine paints and paints containing lead or tributyl tin are hazardous wastes. Sweep them up, and call XXX-XXXX for disposal information.

Recycling – Recycle or reuse leftover paint by using it for touch-ups or by giving it to someone who can use it, such as a theater group, school, city, or other community organization. If you are unable to give it away, contact XXX-XXXX for disposal information.

Concrete and Masonry

Store bags of cement and plaster away from gutters and storm drains and under cover, protected from rainfall, runoff, and wind. REMEMBER: Never dispose of cement washout or concrete dust on driveways or streets or in gutters or storm sewers.

For more information, call your city’s storm water representative at XXX-XXXX.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document represents a careful consolidation, distillation, and restatement of storm water-related information, policies, and regulations obtained from other sources including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the North Dakota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the United States Census Bureau. Prior to implementing any of the best management practices and recommendations stated within this document, it is suggested the reader review the original sources of this information in detail.