



Stormwater Management

Fact Sheet

Painting

As the operator of a painting business you play a vital role in protecting public health and the environment. Waste from painting activities is a large contributor to urban runoff - entering storm drains and ending up untreated in local lakes, rivers, and streams. Many of these contaminants or pollutants have the potential to destroy sensitive ecosystems, harm aquatic life and habitats, and pollute recreational sites and our water supplies. State and local regulations prohibit the discharge of contaminated or polluted water to the storm drainage system. If found to be in violation of these regulations, painters can be heavily penalized with fines and prohibited from doing business in Cobb County.

Best management practices (BMPs) are proactive, practical, and easily implemented techniques that reduce stormwater pollution, protect and improve water quality, save money on disposal costs, comply with Cobb County Code to reduce liabilities and penalties, and offer an environmentally friendly service to your customers. Painting activities require planning. From surface preparation to final clean up, the waste generated from brush/container cleanup and left over materials needs to be handled properly to protect our environment. The following BMP's or equivalent measures, methods or practices are required when painting.



Before Your Project

Calculate the amount of paint required for the job and only buy what you need to cut down on waste.

Identify and protect all storm drains by covering the inlets with waterproof material or place temporary barriers around storm drains to keep discharges from entering the system.

Use sandblasting or wet scraping techniques and/or citrus-based paint removers, which are less toxic than chemical strippers. If you must pressure wash, follow proper BMPs from the pressure washing fact sheet.

During Your Project

Use drip pans and drop cloths when mixing and painting.

Have spill clean up materials readily available. Train personnel on spill prevention/response, and whenever possible, use dry methods (sweeping, vacuuming, mopping or using absorbents) to clean up spills.

After Your Project

Squeeze paint from brushes and rollers and pour excess paint from trays and buckets back into the container. Water-based/latex paint is considered non-hazardous and brushes can be rinsed in an indoor drain leading to the sanitary sewer. **Never clean paint products or dispose of unused paint in a storm drain.** Properly dispose of dry paint chips, rags, brushes and empty containers in a trash bag and then into a garbage dumpster.

Oil-based products (paint thinner, chemical paint stripping residue, oil-based and lead-based paint chips, clean up material) are hazardous and must be disposed of according to state and local regulations. After cleaning oil-based paint tools with thinner, filter the solvent and reuse if possible. **Never clean oil-based products in a sink or over a storm drain.**

Keep all records and manifests for hazardous waste disposal and recycling. Visit <http://stormwater.cobbcountyga.gov/> for a list of companies that provide environmental services such as hazardous waste disposal.

Report spill incidents that cannot be contained or that have entered the storm drainage system immediately to the Cobb County Emergency Response (911) and to Cobb County Stormwater Management (770) 419-6435.

This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.