

Home Repair & Remodeling

Painting and Paint Cleanup

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to aquatic animals and other wildlife in our creeks and Bay. Toxic chemicals may come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues on rags. It is especially important not to clean brushes or painting equipment (buckets, pans, hoses, etc.) in an area where paint or paint cleanup water can flow to a gutter, street, or storm drain.

General Construction

- Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter, and storm drain.
- During cleanup, check the street and gutters for refuse or debris. Look around the corner or downstream for material that may have already traveled away from your property.
- If you or your contractor keep a dumpster at your site, be sure it is securely covered with a lid or tarp when not in use.
- Paint the inside of galvanized rain gutters to reduce corrosion.

Landscaping/Foundation Work

- Intensive gardening, landscaping, and all excavation projects such as foundation repair or pool construction expose soils and increase the likelihood that garden chemicals and earth will wash into the storm drains. Be careful to control erosion and minimize runoff to all driveways, gutters, and storm drains.
- Dispose of unused pesticides as hazardous waste.
- Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt, sand, etc. with plastic tarps during the rainy season.
- Replant as soon as possible, with temporary vegetation such as annual grass seed if necessary. Re-vegetation provides excellent erosion control.
- Take care not to over-apply pesticides, and use up leftover supply. Rinse empty containers, and use rinse-water as you would use the product. Dispose of empty rinsed containers in the trash.
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste and tree trimmings. Many cities and landfills have yard waste composting programs. Check with your local recycling program.
- Do not blow or rake leaves, etc. into the street, or place yard waste in gutters or on dirt shoulders.
- In unincorporated areas and communities with curbside yard waste recycling, leave clippings and pruning waste for pickup in approved bags or containers.

Concrete, Masonry, & Tile Work

- Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use in a day.
- Cover and protect bags of cement and paste after they are open. Be sure to keep wind-blown cement powder away from gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.
- Wash down exposed aggregate concrete only when wash water can flow onto a direct area, or be collected, pumped, and disposed of properly. Make sure runoff does not reach gutters or storm drains.
- Never wash excess material from bricklaying or patio or driveway construction into a street or storm drain. Empty mixing container onto a dirt area, or allow material to dry and put in trash.

- Collect and reuse excess abrasive gravel and sand.
- When rinsing tools used for concrete and plaster work make sure the runoff goes to a drain hooked up to the sewer (inside drains) and not to a storm drain.
- Replant as soon as possible, with temporary vegetation such as annual grass seed if necessary. Re-vegetation provides excellent erosion control.
- Take care not to over-apply pesticides, and use up leftover supply. Rinse empty containers, and use rinse-water as you would use the product. Dispose of empty rinsed containers in the trash.
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste and tree trimmings. Many cities and landfills have yard waste composting programs. Check with your local recycling program.
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Waste Disposal: What Goes Where?

Recycle: Contact the Eureka Community Recycling Center at 1059 W. Hawthorne Street (707) 42-2541 to dispose of recycled materials from your project. .

Household hazardous materials such as unused garden and household chemicals, leftover paint, used solvents, paint stripping residue and rags and used antifreeze can be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 1059 W. Hawthorne Street. Call (707) 441-2005 before taking materials to the facility to arrange an appointment.

Remember to clean up all spills when they happen! If building materials or other wastes get into a gutter, storm drain, or creek call the Public Works Department immediately at (707) 441-4192 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For after hour emergencies call Police Dispatch at (707) 441-4044.