

# HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND WATER QUALITY

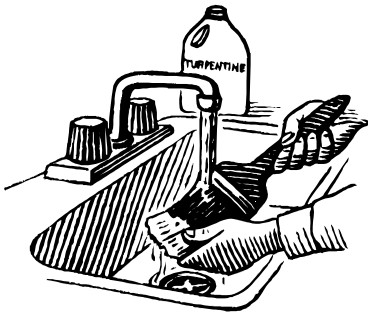
You should think about how remodeling can affect your local water quality. Paints, solvents, adhesives, dusts, sediments and household toxics commonly associated with home repair and remodeling activities can make their way into the local storm drain system. Water in the storm drain system does not get treated before reaching area lakes and rivers. Below is a list of tips on how to keep water from being polluted from home improvement projects.

## Painting Projects

- ☼ Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.
- ☼ Recycle or reuse leftover paint for touchups or donate to a theatre group or high school drama group.
- ☼ Properly dispose of excess paint through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- ☼ For oil-based paints, brush out as much paint as possible, clean with thinner, and then filter and reuse thinner or solvent.

## Chemical Waste Disposal

- ☼ Common household cleaners, paint products, and wallpaper and tile adhesives contain toxic substances. Dispose of these products through a household hazardous waste collection program.



## Landscaping & Outdoor Projects

- ☼ Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses, which will shield and bind the soil.
- ☼ Use native plants. Visit [www.macd.org](http://www.macd.org) and click on Native Plants Gateway.

## Construction Projects

- ☼ Keep all construction debris away from the street.
- ☼ Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- ☼ Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt, sand, etc. with plastic tarps.
- ☼ Excavate on days when dry weather is forecasted to lessen the impacts of erosion and runoff.

keep it **BLUE**  
 only rain in the drain

For more information about water quality and stormwater management visit:  
[www.swmpc.org/water.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/water.asp)

Source: [www.smartwaterways.org](http://www.smartwaterways.org)