



Midwest Research Institute



FLORIDA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



CONSORTIUM  
for POLLUTION  
PREVENTION  
EDUCATION

<http://www.fc3p2e.com>

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## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's)

### Painting



Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

- Developers
- Do-It Yourselfers
- Dry Wall Crews
- Floor Covering Installers
- General Contractors
- Home Builders
- Paper Hangers
- Plasterers
- Professional Painters

## Pollution Prevention It's Up to Us

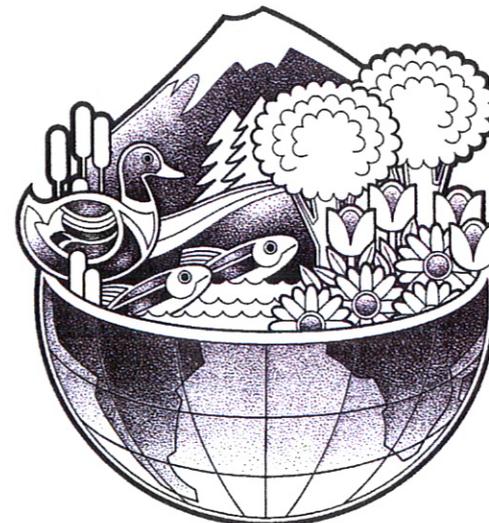
The storm drainage systems of Florida lead to our local water bodies, and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean. Storm drains were designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets out to Florida waterways. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying stormwater runoff, also referred to as *Pointless Personal Pollution*, straight to these waterways.

When it rains, water mixes with pollutants creating *Pointless Personal Pollution*. The pollutants include oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

*Pointless Personal Pollution* flows to our waterways through the storm drain system. Each day, polluted runoff enters the water untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash in our water.

*Pointless Personal Pollution* contaminates the waterways, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent *Pointless Personal Pollution* through Best Management Practices (BMPs). Using these BMPs will ensure cleaner waterways.



Environmental Awareness Saves Our Planet!

This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

- Roadwork & Paving
- Heavy Equipment
- Concrete & Mortar Application
- General Construction & Site Supervision
- Food Service Industry
- Automotive Maintenance & Car Care
- Landscaping Gardening & Pest Control

## Painting Problems

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife and humans. That is why proper handling and disposal of these products is so important.

Toxic chemicals from liquid, solid products, cleaning residues or rags may enter waterways via storm drains.

It is especially important not to clean brushes in an area where paint residue can flow to a street, gutter or storm drain. Once paint residue enters the storm drain system, it flows directly to Florida's various waterways.

As a contractor, site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, *you may be held responsible for the environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.*

## Solutions

**Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering waterways through the storm drain system.**



### General Business Practices

**Keep all liquid paint products and wastes away from the street, gutter and storm drains.** Liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes. When thoroughly dry, used brushes, rags, drop cloths and empty paint cans (lids off) may be disposed of as trash.

**Use water-based paints** instead of oil-based paints. Look for the words "Latex" or "Clean up with water" on the label.

**Do not use paints over 15 years old.** They may contain toxic levels of lead.



**Reuse paint thinner.** Set used thinner aside in a closed jar to settle out paint particles. Then pour off clear liquid for future use. Wrap the residue in newspaper and dispose of it in the trash.

### Paint Removal

**Chemical paint stripping residue is a hazardous waste.** Chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin are hazardous wastes. Dry sweep and call for disposal information.

Paint chips and dust from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting may be swept up and disposed of as trash.

When stripping or cleaning building exteriors with high-pressure water, block storm drains. Wash water onto a dirt area. Check with the local wastewater treatment authority to find out if you can collect (mop or vacuum) building cleaning water and drain it to the sewer.

## Solutions for Painting Problems

### Paint Cleanup

Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter or storm drain.

For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible and rinse in the sink.

For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible. Clean them with thinner and then, filter and reuse the thinner or solvent.

### Recycle or Reuse Leftover Paints

Reuse leftover paint for touch-ups or donate it to local graffiti paint-out programs.



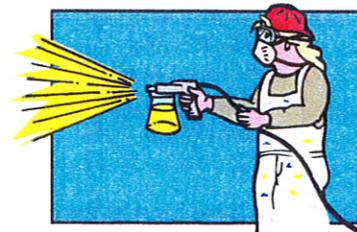
Recycle or use up excess paint.

### Employee & Client Education

Employees can help prevent pollution when you include *Pointless Personal Pollution* training in employee orientation and reviews. Promote these Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Storage containers for paints and supplies should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.

Place materials inside rigid, durable, watertight containers with tight fitting covers.



Store materials inside a building or build a covered area that is paved and designed to prevent runoff from entering storm drains.

Educate your employees. Include water quality training in new employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions.

Post BMPs where employees and clients can see them. Showing customers you protect Florida's waterways is good public relations.



## Contacts



To report a spill, learn about waste disposal or report illegal dumping please contact your local public works department.

For more information contact your local Water Management District.

Northwest Florida 850-539-5999

St. Johns River 386-329-4500

Southwest Florida 352-796-7211

South Florida 561-686-8800

Suwannee River 386-362-1001