

*Environment-Friendly*  
**Home Improvement  
& Maintenance**



**Your Community. Your Environment. Your Choice.**  
*Help keep Chula Vista clean.*



**Storm Water Management Section**  
Department of Public Works  
1800 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista, CA 91911

**[www.chulavistaca.gov/clean](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/clean)**

# Home improvement & maintenance may be harmful to our environment!

If home improvement materials are washed down the street and into a storm drain, they not only stain the gutters and streets, but also add many harmful chemicals and sediments to our water bodies. Additionally, many building materials can dry and harden, clogging storm drain pipes.

Too much sediment or dirt in our waterways can choke aquatic life by creating murky conditions; it also fills in and disables natural drainage areas.

Yard clippings blown or swept into a storm drain can damage aquatic environments by adding too much vegetation to the water, which then removes oxygen and suffocates other aquatic life.

## Make better choices... *with the environment in mind.*

### Disposal of Paint and Building Materials

Never rinse paint brushes out in the street or in any area that might flow to the street or into a storm drain. If you use a water-based paint, wash all paintbrushes, pans, sprayers and other equipment in a sink connected to the sewer. Recycle used paints if possible. Empty, dried paint cans should be placed in the recycle bin. Dried paint can be removed from the paint can and disposed of into the trash bin. For any questions regarding liquid waste paint disposal, please call the City's Environmental Services Section at (619)691-5122.

If you spill liquid building materials or other hazardous materials, use towels, absorbents or kitty litter immediately to prevent the spill from flowing into the street. Properly dispose all hazardous waste.

Materials and equipment that require water with application and cleaning such as grout, gypsum compound, dry wall mud, plaster, stucco, or concrete cannot be rinsed down a street or into a storm drain. Use a mop and bucket to clean these areas. Allow left-over materials to dry completely, then dispose of them in the trash.

### Sediment/Loose Dirt

You can help prevent sediment or loose dirt from entering the storm drain system by planting vegetation on slopes, and by properly maintaining your landscaped areas. Roots from plants bind loose soil and prevent erosion. If loose dirt is left on sidewalks or streets after a project, dispose of it in your yard. For large projects, contact a hauling company to remove dirt for you.

### Cleaning Sidewalks, Driveways and Other Surfaces

If you must prepare your home exterior for painting, or if you need to clean your sidewalks and driveways by pressure washing, hire a company that specializes in recovering wash water. Make sure to clean up fluid spills with a rag, kitty litter or other absorbents, rather than flushing the spill down the street and into the storm drain system.

**Remember, it is illegal to allow building materials, or wash water from the cleaning of building materials, to enter the storm drain system.**