

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay, without treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for people who live near polluted streams or baylands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion, landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into streets or storm drains.

Thirteen valley municipalities have joined together with Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to educate local residents and businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Join us, by following the practices described in this pamphlet.

## Doing the Job Right

This brochure is for **homeowners**, and **do-it-yourself remodelers** who have access to residential household hazardous waste disposal programs. Contractors and other professionals should refer to the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program's other publications in this series of brochures, and to *Blueprint for a Clean Bay*, a manual of best-management practices for construction-related industries.

Keep waterway protection in mind whenever you or people you hire work on your house or property. The property owner is ultimately responsible for correcting any pollution problems caused by construction activities. Penalties may be more severe if storm drain pollution is not reported promptly.

## Painting and Paint Cleanup

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to 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.

### Paint Cleanup



- Never clean **brushes** or rinse **paint containers** into a street, gutter, storm drain, or stream.
- For **water-based paints**, paint out brushes on to the extent possible, and rinse into a drain that goes to the sanitary sewer (i.e. indoor plumbing).
- For **oil-based paints**, paint out brushes to the extent possible and clean with thinner or solvent in a proper container. Filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of excess liquids and residue at a hazardous waste collection event.
- When they are thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags, and drop cloths may be disposed of as trash. Leave the lids off paint cans so the refuse collector can see that they are empty. Empty, dry paint cans also may be recycled as metal.
- Dispose of empty aerosol paint cans as household hazardous waste.

### Paint Removal

- Buildings constructed 1978 may have lead paint. Test paint for lead by taking paint scrapings to a local laboratory.



## Concrete, Masonry, and Tile Work

- Don't mix more concrete, stucco or cement than you need for each project.
- Cover and protect bags of cement and plaster after they are open. Store materials off the ground. 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 dirt area, or be collected, pumped, and disposed of properly. If possible, sweep first. 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 into a plastic lined pit or water tight container in a manner that will prevent leaching into underlying soils. Allow material to dry and put in trash.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash. Call your local refuse hauler for weight and size limits.
- Collect and reuse excess abrasive gravel and sand.
- Never hose down driveways, sidewalk, or streets.

## General Construction

- Keep all construction materials and debris away from the street, gutter, and storm drain.
- During cleanup, check the street and gutters for sediment, 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 it is not in use.
- Place portable toilets away from storm drains. Make sure toilets are in working order. Check frequently for leaks.

## Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

For information, contact your City's program or the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program, (408) 299-7300.

For Palo Alto residents, household hazardous waste is collected monthly at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant, 2501 Embarcadero Way. Most events are on the first Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. until noon. For information, call (650) 496-6980.

City of Santa Clara collection events are held twice a year. Call (408) 615-3080.

## Construction Materials & Equipment Reuse and Exchange

### California Materials Exchange (CalMAX) Portal

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/calmax/>

Listing of online resources to list or find materials (916) 341-6199

### Urban Ore, Inc.

900 Murray St., Berkeley

**(510) 841-7283**

Building materials exchange, household goods, office furniture

## Material Recycling Online Resources

### Center for Development of Recycling

[RecycleStuff.org](http://RecycleStuff.org)

Santa Clara Countywide recycling information including facility search

### Santa Clara County C&D Facilities

[www.sccgov.org/sites/dso/Building%20Inspection/Documents/CD\\_List.pdf](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/dso/Building%20Inspection/Documents/CD_List.pdf)

List of construction and demolition recycling/disposal facilities

### Landfill and Transfer Stations in Santa Clara County

[www.sccgov.org/sites/iwm/biz/Pages/Landfills-and-Transfer-Stations.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/iwm/biz/Pages/Landfills-and-Transfer-Stations.aspx)

## Material Recycling Facilities

### C & M Diversified

330 N. Montgomery St., San Jose

**(408) 294-5185**

Doors, plumbing fixtures, windows, etc. in good condition

### Granite Rock

San Jose

**(408) 574-3000**

Asphalt, concrete, sand, drain rock

### Guadalupe Recycling and Disposal Facility (Waste Management)

15999 Guadalupe Mines Rd, San Jose

**(408) 268-1670**

Construction & demolition debris

### Recology Silicon Valley

650 Martin Ave, Santa Clara

**(408) 970-5100**

### Newby Island Resource Recovery Park (Republic Services)

1601 Dixon Landing Rd, Milpitas

**(408) 432-1234**

### SRDC Recycling

11740 Berryessa Rd, San Jose

**(408) 392-9175**

199 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City

**(650) 450-7636**

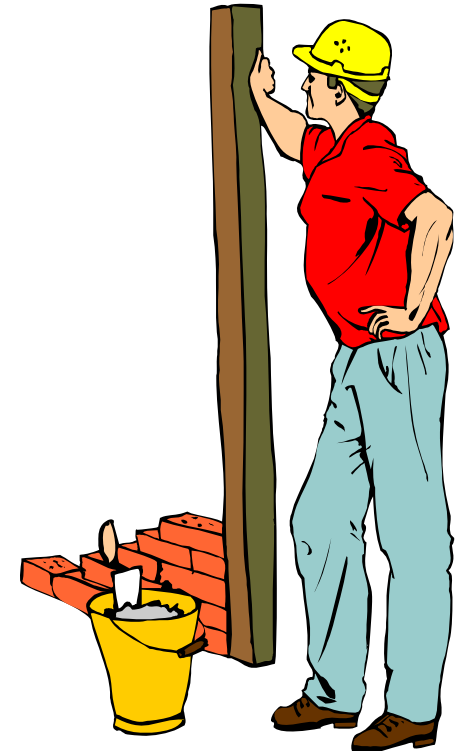
Brick, concrete, rock, dirt

### San Martin Transfer and Recycling (Recology)

14070 Llagas Ave., San Martin

**(408) 842-3358**

Wood/demolition debris, no dirt, concrete, rocks, or bricks



### Valley Recycling

1615 B South 7<sup>th</sup> St, San Jose

**(408) 297-5352**

Construction & demolition debris, pick-up available

### Waste Management Recycling & Disposal Facilities

#### Guadalupe

15999 Guadalupe Mines Rd, San Jose

**(408) 268-1670**

#### Kirby Canyon

910 Coyote Creek Golf Dr, Morgan Hill

**(408) 779-2206**

Construction & demolition debris

### Zanker Resource Management

705 Los Esteros Road, San Jose

**(408) 263-2385**

Concrete, asphalt, wood

## 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.

- Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.
- Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt, sand, dirt, mulch, etc. with plastic tarps during the rainy season.
- Replant as soon as possible, with temporary vegetation such as annual grass seed if necessary. Revegetation provides excellent erosion control.
- Take care not to over apply pesticides, and use up leftover supply. Rinse empty containers, and use rinsewater as you would use the product. Dispose of empty rinsed containers in the trash.
- Dispose of unused pesticide as hazardous waste.
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings. Many cities and landfills have yard waste collection and composting programs. Check with your municipality to see if yard waste pickup is available and what the collection requirements are.
- In areas with curbside pickup of yard waste place clippings and pruning waste in approved bags or containers. Or, take to a landfill that composts yard waste.
- Do not blow or rake leaves, etc. into the street, or place yard waste in gutters or on dirt shoulders**, unless you are piling them for recycling (allowed by San Jose and unincorporated County only).
- In San Jose, leave yard waste for curbside recycling in piles in the street, 18 inches from the curb and completely out of the flow line to any storm drain.

- Chemical **paint stripping** residues, including saturated rags, are a hazardous waste and should be taken to a household hazardous waste event.
- Chips and dust from **marine paints or paints containing lead, mercury or tributyl-tin** are hazardous wastes. Sweep up paint chips and properly store for household hazardous waste event.

### **Reuse/recycle leftover paints whenever possible**

- Use up excess paint or give it to a neighbor, or take it to a household hazardous waste event. Most household hazardous waste collection programs can recycle latex (water-based) paint.



## Recycle:

Plant material/tree branches, leaves, etc.  
Wood, broken asphalt, and concrete (check with your local landfill)  
Water-based paints (in some communities)  
Used motor oil (curbside pickup in most communities)  
Antifreeze (in some communities)

### **Take to a household hazardous waste drop-off event:**

Unused garden and household chemicals  
Leftover paint  
Used solvents  
Paint stripping residue and rags  
Used antifreeze

### **Dispose as trash:**

Construction debris from small projects  
Dry, empty paint cans, spent brushes, rags, and drop cloths  
Small amounts of dry mortar, grout, etc.

**Clean up all spills when they happen. Do not flush spills into storm drains. If construction materials or other wastes get into a gutter, storm drain, or creek, call your local spill response agency immediately! (See list on back of brochure.)**



## Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are eligible to use Santa Clara County's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Program. Call (800) 207-8222 for a quote, more information or guidance on disposal.

Palo Alto operates a similar program, with monthly collection, for small businesses. Call the City of Palo Alto, (650) 496-6980, or Clean Harbors, 1-800-433-5060 for information or to schedule an appointment.

This brochure is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain pollution prevention measures for specific types of construction industry activities. Other pamphlets include:

### **General Construction and Site Supervision**

### **Landscaping and Gardening**

### **Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives**

### **Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application**

### **Roadwork and Paving**

### **Earth-Moving and Heavy Equipment Operation**

### **Dewatering Activities**

For additional brochures, call **1-800-794-2482**.



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## Spill Response Agencies:

1. In the City of Santa Clara, call (408) 615-3080.
2. In the City of Palo Alto, call (650) 329-2413.
3. In the City of San José, Dial 9-1-1 if hazardous materials the storm drain system. For non-hazardous spills, call (408) 945-3000.
4. In other cities, find the contact number at [www.scvurppp-w2k.com/report\\_spill.shtml](http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/report_spill.shtml) or **DIAL 9-1-1**
5. State Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours). . . . . **1-800-852-7550**
6. Santa Clara County's Illegal Dumping/ Discharge Hotline. . . . .(408) 918-3400

## Local Pollution Control Agencies

County of Santa Clara Integrated Waste Management Program. . . . . (408) 441-1198

County of Santa Clara District Attorney Environmental Crimes Hotline. . . . .(408) 299-TIPS

Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline. . . . . 1-800-533-8414

Santa Clara Valley Water District. . . . .(408) 265-2600

Santa Clara Valley Water District Pollution Hotline. . . . .1-888-510-5151

San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. . . . . (408) 635-6600

*Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga*

Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant *Serving Sunnyvale. . . . . 408) 730-7270*

Regional Water Quality Control Plant. . . . .(650) 329-2598

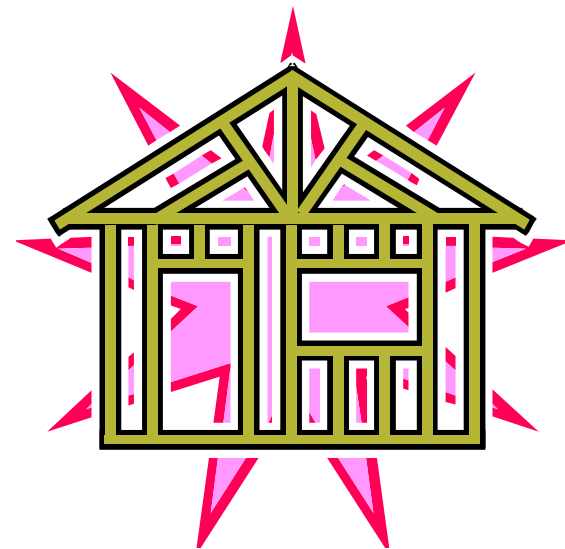
*Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford*

Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region. . . . . (510) 622-2300

# Home Repair and Remodeling

## *Best Management Practices for Construction Activities*

- Landscaping/Foundation Work
- Painting and Paint Cleanup
- Concrete, Masonry, and Tile Work
- General Construction



## Who should use this brochure?

- Homeowners
- Do-it yourself remodelers
- General contractors