

## How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices, or BMPs, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMPs in this brochure.

## What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-2678.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go on line at: <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>



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**Home Repair and Remodeling Best Management Practices**

Environmental Services Division

Storm Water Hotline  
480-350-2811

# Environmentally Friendly Home Repair and Remodeling Best Management Practices

Paints, solvents, adhesives, dust, sediments, pesticides and household toxics associated with repairs and remodeling activities can make their way into the Tempe storm drain system. These wastes can make our waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.

Common household cleaners, paint products, and adhesives may contain toxic substances. Dispose of these products correctly.

**For proper disposal in Tempe call the Tempe Household Products Collection Center at (480) 858-2223.**

## Construction

- Keep construction debris away from the street, gutter, and storm drain system. Cover excavated material and stockpiles with plastic tarps.
- Schedule grading and excavation for dry weather.
- Be sure dumpsters are securely covered when not in use.

## Concrete and Masonry

- Never dispose of cement washout or concrete dust to driveways, streets, gutters, or the storm drain system.
- Never wash excess material from bricklaying, patio, driveway, or sidewalk construction to the street or storm drain system.
- Don't mix up more concrete or mortar than you will need for a project.

- Protect dry material from wind and rain. Set up and operate small mixers on tarps.
- Protect fresh concrete and mortar from rainfall until material has dried.

## Painting

- Paints and solvents contain chemicals that are harmful to plants and wildlife. Keep all paints and associated products away from streets, gutters, and storm drains.
- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into streets, gutters, or the storm drain system.
- When using water-based paints, brush out as much paint as possible and then rinse into sink.



- For oil-based paints, brush out as much paint as possible and then clean with thinner. Reuse thinner or solvent by filtering.
- When removing paint, remember to plan for containment on the work site to prevent or minimize most erosion and sedimentation problems.

## Housekeeping Practices

- Collect the wash water from glues, solvents, paints, wood preservatives, and other toxic materials and dispose of it in an appropriate manner.
- Protect existing trees, shrubs, and soils which are going to remain in their natural state from damage or compaction by construction equipment.
- Throw away rags that have chemicals on them; rainwater can saturate rags and flow into storm drains or ground water.

## Storage

- Store and dispose of wastes properly.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured. Preferably keep all solid waste containers inside the shop away from water exposure. If it is necessary to keep containers outside, be sure they are covered when not in use.

## Miscellaneous Tips

- Never discharge any waste to a street, ditch, storm sewer, stream, or the ground.

**While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.**

