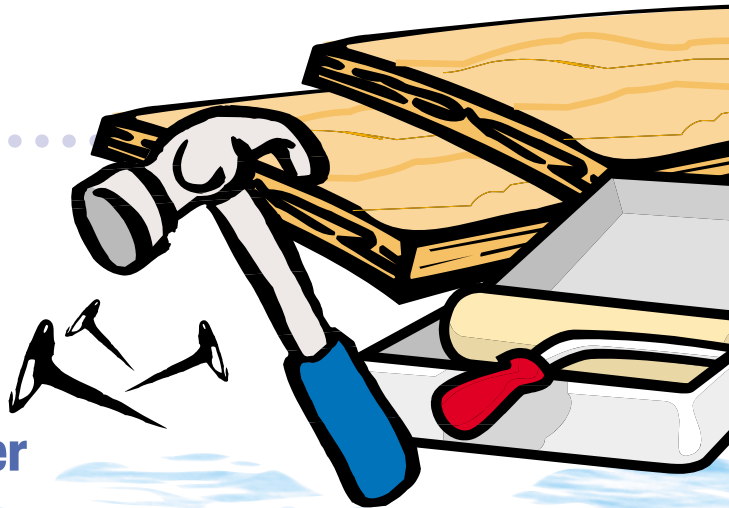


# Hiring a Handy Man

## Easy Instructions for the Homeowner



**What is urban runoff and storm water pollution, and what is the difference between them?** Urban runoff is the water that flows off our yards, streets, parking lots, and driveways into the storm drains and eventually into our creeks, lagoons and the ocean during the dry season. Whether it is from sprinkler over spray, car washing or hosing down the driveway, everyone is a potential contributor to urban runoff. Whereas storm water pollution occurs during the rainy season, with runoff picking up pollutants from our streets and gutters that flows directly into our local waterways. In either case, whether by rain or by everyday activities, the water flows into the storm drains picking up pollutants like soil, motor oil, pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, and litter. All these contaminants end up in our waterways. Many people mistakenly think that the water entering our storm drains is cleaned or treated in some way. **The storm drain system and sewer system are separate.** Our storm drain system channels water, untreated, directly into our creeks, lagoons and the ocean. If our runoff water and storm water is contaminated, it will cause beach closures and postings. Urban runoff is a major source of water pollution. **Acting Water Wise Helps Keep Our Waterways Clean. Prevent Storm Water Pollution and Urban Runoff.**

### HOW CAN HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AFFECT OUR LOCAL CREEKS, LAGOONS, AND OCEANS?

Many products and materials – such as paints, solvents, stucco, soil, drywall, saw dust, concrete, and chemicals - used in home improvement projects are potential urban runoff contaminants. Of primary concern is the mixing of these contaminants with water through careless cleaning and handling procedures. Unless these items are handled and disposed of properly, they will directly contribute to the degradation of our local waterways. When these materials enter our environment, they are carried, pushed, and picked-up by water flowing over streets, sidewalks, roofs, and other impervious surfaces. They eventually enter storm drains and end up in our local creeks, lagoons, and oceans, without treatment or filtration. This untreated run-off affects water quality; human, animal, and environmental health; and can cause flooding when storm drains are clogged or blocked by sediment and debris.

### AS A HOMEOWNER, YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT'S IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY.

When you hire a handyman for a home improvement project, a few factors need to be considered. As a homeowner, you are legally responsible for the containment of all possible forms of contaminants on your property. A good idea is to monitor the ways in which you and your hired help handles, cleans, and disposes of the materials that he/she uses throughout the project. Ideally, the only thing that should leave your property and enter a storm drain is rainwater - clean, uncontaminated rainwater. The following ideas on how to control and prevent contaminated run-off from your property should be shared with your handyman prior to initiating the project. In turn, both of you will be ensuring the safety of the public and preserving the quality of our local waterways from the start.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Never wash anything into the gutter.
- Cover or block any nearby storm drain opening that may be affected by your home improvement while work is in progress.
- Be aware of potential run-off surfaces near your work and cleaning areas to avoid water contamination.
- Recycle materials that are broken or not completely exhausted during the project, such as concrete, wood waste, and paint.
- Properly dispose of hazardous materials in a household hazardous waste collection program. Door-to-door hazardous waste collection is available to Encinitas residents, or permanent collection facilities are located in the Cities of Vista and Poway. Please call 1-800-714-1195 for more specific information on both options.



# Clean





## PAINTING/REFINISHING

- **CLEANUP:** "Brush out" as much paint, varnish, stain, or other product as possible from your brushes and rollers. When using water-based products, always clean your equipment in a sink that is connected to the sewer system. Never rinse your equipment in the street, in an area that flows to the street, or near a storm drain. For oil-based products, clean your equipment with thinner; strain and reuse the thinner; and dispose of properly in a household hazardous waste collection program.
- **REMOVAL/STRIPPING:** Paint chips from stripping or surface preparation need to be swept up and disposed of properly. If the stripped paint is known to contain lead or other hazardous elements, contact (760) 633-2787 for disposal options.

## CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

- Projects involving materials that require water – such as grout for laying tile, cement for general construction, and stucco for siding – call for complete containment from the initial mixing of materials to the final cleaning of equipment. The materials and their resultant by-products cannot be washed onto driveways, into streets, or into storm drains. So, remember to buy and use only the amount needed; be aware of the surroundings in which you are working; and avoid impervious surfaces and areas near waterways and storm drains when cleaning.

By providing your handyman with a few of these environmentally friendly ideas, you minimize the potential of harmful materials entering our local waterways.

Helping keep our water clean doesn't stop when we leave our homes. Whether you are at work or at home, we can all do our part. Every small thing we do adds up to protect and preserve our environment. Thank you for doing your part. To report Illegal Dumping or for more information on preventing storm water pollution and urban run-off, please call the City of Encinitas Storm Drain Pollution Hotline at (760) 633-2787.

## OTHER FACT SHEETS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST AT HOME AND AT WORK:

- **Restaurants Can Help Keep our Waterways Clean** – Simple Things That Make a Big Difference
- **Construction / Developers** – Simple and Cost Effective Ways to Comply with Storm Water Regulations
- **Automotive Care** – Simple Things to Keep Our Waterways Clean
- **Yard & Garden Care** – Keeping Your Yard & Garden Beautiful and Our Waterways Clean
- **Diazinon** - How it Affects Your Health, Your Family and the Environment

These fact sheets are available on the City of Encinitas' website at [www.ci.encinitas.ca.us](http://www.ci.encinitas.ca.us). The fact sheets were created by Solana Recyclers, Inc. For more information about storm water / urban runoff pollution prevention, please contact us at (760) 436-7986 or [info@beresourceful.org](mailto:info@beresourceful.org).

