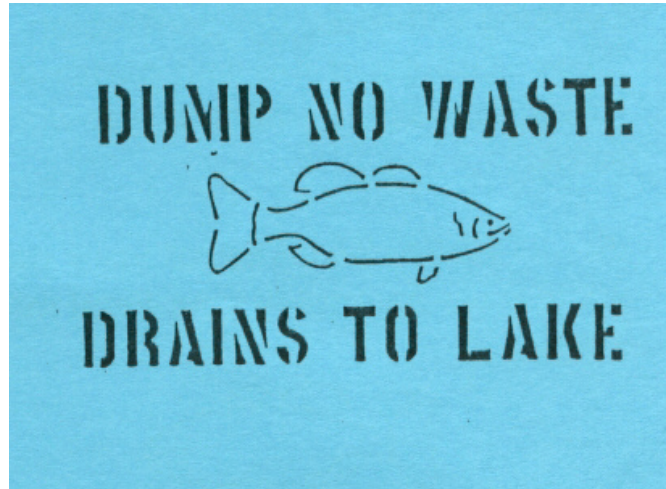


Pollution Prevention In The Community



Storm Drain Stenciling

We rely on water for many purposes. We use water for recreation, drinking, energy, and irrigation, while our economy and wildlife habitat also depend upon it . Our lives are at stake if our water becomes polluted or unfit for use.

When we think of water pollution, we usually think of pollution coming from a pipe, industrial discharge, or people throwing garbage and trash in it. Nonpoint source pollution is pollution that does not come from a pipe or other well defined source. It is contamination that occurs when rainwater, snow melt or irrigation water collect pollutants from agricultural lands, construction sites, city streets, or our homes. As the runoff moves across the land surface, it picks up soil and pollutants, such as pesticides, nutrients, and petroleum. Some of the polluted water, or runoff, infiltrates into the soil to contaminate the groundwater below. The rest of the runoff deposits the soil and pollutants in rivers, lakes, wetlands, and costal waters.

Originating from numerous small sources, nonpoint source pollution is widespread, dispersed, and hard to pinpoint. This makes it a challenge to control, regulate or prevent.

Storm drain stenciling is one activity that can help reduce and, in some cases, eliminate one aspect of nonpoint source pollution. It is an easy effective way to educate your community about storm water pollution. This action-oriented project allows children, parents, civic groups, businesses, watershed councils, and environmental groups an opportunity to implement a pollution prevention project on a small scale. Opportunities to educate, disburse information, and raise public awareness all factor into completing this project. The number of storm drains that can be stenciled depends on the size of the group that is doing the project and the hours the group are willing to volunteer.

TO PREPARE

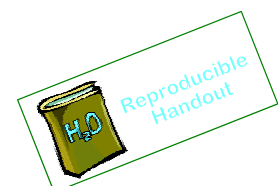
1. Set a date. Take into account weather conditions. You will need dry weather, dry pavement and temperatures above 50°F. Consider choosing a rain date.
2. Get permission from your city's Department of Public Works. Ask about any special restrictions pertaining to painting on the sidewalk. Some Public Works Departments have storm drains mapped out.
3. Buy paint, preferably inverted-tip white traffic zone latex paint such as Diamond Vogel Traffic Marking Paint (1 can will paint approximately 10 drains).
4. Coordinate your teams. If working with kids, get permission slips. Groups of 4-6 with participants being at least 10 years of age, work the best.
5. Notify the local newspaper to invite a reporter to attend the event.

STENCIL DAY

1. Set up traffic cones near the drain. Make sure all participants have safety gear such as vests. Designate one person as traffic watcher (it's more fun for everyone if you rotate jobs).
2. Select area near drain to be painted. Do not paint on the drain. Scrub area with wire brush to remove debris. Sweep debris into bag rather than down the storm drain.
3. Consider using a cut open cardboard box as a shield to contain any airborne drifting spray paint if conditions are windy. Do not paint near parked cars.
4. Lay stencil flat. Have one or two people hold stencil or use bricks/stones as an anchor.
5. Follow manufacturer's instructions for paint preparation (such as shaking). Apply paint to one line of the stencil at a time. Two light coats are better than one thick coat for preventing drips and runs. If the stenciling doesn't come out perfect, it's okay. Do not try to wipe up and start over as that will smear the paint completely.
6. Pass out door hangers to local businesses and residences. This step is crucial for educating the community about the importance of protecting storm drain water. *A copy of the door hanger is a reprintable handout in this guide.*

CLEAN UP

1. Transport painted stencils in plastic bags back to a cool, dry storage area.
2. Remove stencils from plastic bag. Allow stencils to dry flat (not stacked for about a week)
3. Roll up stencil with paint is completely dry. Latex paint should flake and peel off.
4. Store stencils ready for next time.



Supplies you will need

Stencils
Paint
Whisk broom
Wire brush
Traffic cones
Safety vests
Trash bags
Rag or towels
Latex/plastic gloves
Old clothes
Cardboard boxes (for a spray shield)

Resource for Supplies

Stencils: www.earthwater-stencils.com
Paint: local Diamond Vogel retailer
Whisk broom, wire brush, trash bags, rag/towels, and latex/plastic gloves can all be purchased at the local discount department store
Traffic cones: www.trafficsafetystore.com
Old clothes: local Goodwill store or Salvation Army store
Cardboard boxes: local grocery store