

Home projects can send sediment and pollutants into streams

The use of some rental equipment creates liquid waste. Allowing this wastewater to flow into a ditch, gutter, or storm drain can pollute our streams and lakes. Common sources of pollutants from project sites include:

- sediment from soil erosion
- construction and landscape materials and waste (e.g., paint, solvents, concrete, drywall, mulch, gravel)
- landscaping runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides
- spills of oil, fuel, and other fluids

You can take action

Properly dispose of the waste created by rental equipment and home projects. Certain materials need to be disposed of as hazardous waste:

- Oil-based and hazardous (marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyltin paint)
- Large quantities of water-based paint

Other waste byproducts can be disposed of in the trash:

- Dried water-based paint
- Hardened concrete
- Dust from saws and sanders

OUR WATERSHED

The residents of our watershed depend on it for drinking water, floodplain functions, recreation, and other services. A watershed is an area of land where all streams and rainfall drain to the same place. A healthy watershed means a healthy community, environment, and economy.

Learn more about watersheds, stormwater, and how to protect water quality by visiting KeepitCleanPartnership.org.



*Brochure designed and developed
by the Keep it Clean Partnership in
Boulder County, Colorado.*

Home Improvement Projects

WATER PROTECTION GUIDE

Construction

Use barriers to contain wastewater from construction activities and protect storm drains.

Cement Mixer

- Place barriers to contain cement waste, do not allow water to flow away from the work area.
- Put hardened concrete in the trash.

Cement or Tile Saw

- Place barriers to contain water waste, do not allow water to flow away from the work area.
- Allow slurry to dry and sweep up dust immediately or use a wet vacuum and drain water onto unpaved surface.

Earth-Moving Equipment

- Protect storm drains with barriers to prevent soil from washing into them.
- Cover disturbed soils and stockpiles with plastic or landscape cloth.
- When the project is complete, seed and mulch disturbed areas immediately.
- Store soil or other stockpiles on a permeable surface like lawn or landscaping, or in a covered area. Surround with perimeter control and tarp if precipitation is possible.

Sander

- Sweep up dust and put in the trash.

Cleaning

Collect used wash water that contains soap or other chemicals to dispose in an indoor drain.

Carpet Cleaner

- Discharge dirty water to a drain or toilet inside a building.

Pressure Washer

- Whenever possible, capture the water for disposal in an indoor drain. Water that contains soap or other materials must be collected and is not allowed to enter the stormdrain or city streets.
- Pressure wash items on permeable surfaces such as lawns or gravel, or direct water onto these surfaces if it will not cause flooding or flow into a storm drain or body of water.

Painting

Contain paint, paint-related products, and wastewater from cleaning brushes and equipment.

Paint Sprayer

- Use hanging wind blocking tarps to prevent overspray and vacuum up loose paint chips.
- Water-based paint: Wipe excess paint out of sprayer, then rinse equipment into sink or toilet. Small amounts of leftover paint can be allowed to dry in the original container then put in the trash.
- Oil-based paint: Filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of all cleanup materials and excess paint as hazardous waste.

Sand Blaster

- Capture paint chips on a plastic sheet or tarp and sweep up. Dispose of water-based paint waste in the trash and oil-based or hazardous paint as hazardous waste.

From your Home to the Creek



Common household activities can be sources of pollutants



Rain and snow pick up pollutants and carry them into roads as stormwater



Stormwater enters storm drains on roads and flows through underground channels



Stormwater flows through these channels directly into local creeks without being treated