

## Painting Without Polluting



Allowing paint or painting wash-water to enter the storm system is illegal (Gig Harbor Municipal Code 14.30.050). It's your job to prevent these pollutants from entering storm drains.

- Whenever possible, choose latex paint over oil-based paint.
- Avoid solvents during cleanup.
- Use disposable equipment (brushes, rollers, trays, etc.) and dispose in trash when dry.
- Never wash out equipment or dump wash-water on the street, down storm drains or ditches.
- Buy the right amount of paint to avoid leftover material.
- Brush out as much paint as possible before cleaning brushes or rollers.
- Drain and recycle excess paint from spray equipment prior to cleaning with water or solvent.
- Carefully store leftover paint for future use or give it away to someone who can use it.
- Completely empty spray cans may be recycled as scrap metal. If not empty, manage as hazardous waste.
- When pressure washing, take measures to prevent wash-water from entering storm drains (see also *Pressure Washing* handout from Gig Harbor Source Control Program for more smart practices).
- PaintCare offers drop-off sites throughout Pierce County where you can take unwanted paint for recycling. These sites are available to households and businesses with leftover paint. Go to [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) to find a drop-off location and see what products are accepted.
- Latex, water-based, or acrylic paint can be disposed in the trash with the lid OFF if it is dried or mixed with cat litter or similar.
- Wash-water from cleanup of latex paint may be discharged to the sanitary sewer but NOT drains that lead to a septic tank or storm drains. NEVER pour excess paint into either storm drains or the sanitary sewer.

*Business owners can do their part to keep Washington's waterways clean.*

For more information contact The City of Gig Harbor Public Works – Stormwater at (253) 853-2646

