

Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and ocean are important to Los Angeles County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Home improvement projects and work sites must be maintained to ensure that building materials do not enter the street, gutter or storm drain. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never dump building materials into the ocean, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information,
please call the
City of Temple City
Public Safety and Services Division
at **(626) 285-2171**
or visit
www.ci.temple-city.ca.us

To report a spill,
call the
Los Angeles County
24-Hour Water Pollution
Reporting Hotline
1-888-CLEAN-LA
(1-888-253-2652)

For emergencies, dial 911.

This brochure was created by the Orange County Stormwater Program and modified for the Greater Los Angeles Area by the City of Temple City.

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

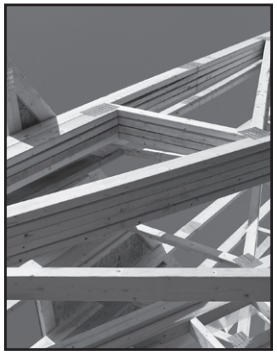
Tips for Home Improvement Projects



Tips for Home Improvement Projects

Home improvement projects can cause significant damage to the environment. Whether you hire a contractor or work on the house yourself, it is important to follow these simple tips while renovating, remodeling or improving your home:

General Construction



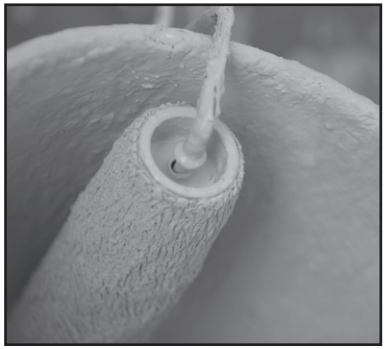
- Schedule projects for dry weather.
- Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drain.
- Store materials under cover with temporary roofs or plastic sheets to eliminate or reduce the possibility that rainfall, runoff or wind will carry materials from the project site to the street, storm drain or adjacent properties.

Building Materials

- Never hose materials into a street, gutter or storm drain.
- Exposed piles of construction material should not be stored on the street or sidewalk.
- Minimize waste by ordering only the amount of materials needed to complete the job.
- Do not mix more fresh concrete than is needed for each project.
- Wash concrete mixers and equipment in a designated washout area where the water can flow into a containment area or onto dirt.
- Dispose of small amounts of dry excess materials in the trash. Powdery waste, such as dry concrete, must be properly contained within a box or bag prior to disposal. Call your local trash hauler for weight and size limits.

Paint

- Measure the room or object to be painted, then buy only the amount needed.
- Place the lid on firmly and store the paint can upside-down in a dry location away from the elements.
- Tools such as brushes, buckets and rags should never be washed where excess water can drain into the street, gutter or storm drain. All tools should be rinsed in a sink connected to the sanitary sewer.
- When disposing of paint, never put wet paint in the trash.
- Dispose of water-based paint by removing the lid and letting it dry in the can. Large amounts must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC).



- Oil-based paint is a household hazardous waste. All leftover paint should be taken to a HHWCC or collection event. .
- For a list of HHWCC locations or a schedule of collection events near you, please all **(888) 253-2652** or visit **www.CleanLA.com**.

Erosion Control

- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- When temporarily removing soil, pile it in a contained, covered area where it cannot spill into the street, or obtain the required temporary encroachment or street closure permit and follow the conditions instructed by the permit.
- When permanently removing large quantities of soil, a disposal location must be found prior to excavation. Numerous businesses are available to handle disposal needs. For disposal options, visit **www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/**
- Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. They will shield and bind the soil.

Recycle

- Use a construction and demolition recycling company to recycle lumber, paper, cardboard, metals, masonry (bricks, concrete, etc.), carpet, plastic, pipes (plastic, metal and clay), drywall, rocks, dirt and green waste.



- For a listing of construction and demolition recycling locations in your area, visit **www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle.**

Spills

- Clean up spills immediately by using an absorbent material such as cat litter, then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash.
- Immediately report spills that have entered the street, gutter or storm drain to the County's 24-Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline at **(888) 253-2652** or visit **www.CleanLA.com** to fill out an incident reporting form.

PROJECT Pollution PREVENTION