

# Stormwater Tips for Homeowners



## Household Care

- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paint through a household hazardous waste collection program. For oil-based paints, brush out as much paint and possible, clean with thinner, and then filter and reuse thinner or solvent.
- Keep household hazardous wastes, such as harsh cleaners, paint, car fluids, and batteries from entering lakes and streams by disposing at a household hazardous waste center. Try using environmentally-safe alternatives or recipes with non-hazardous ingredients.

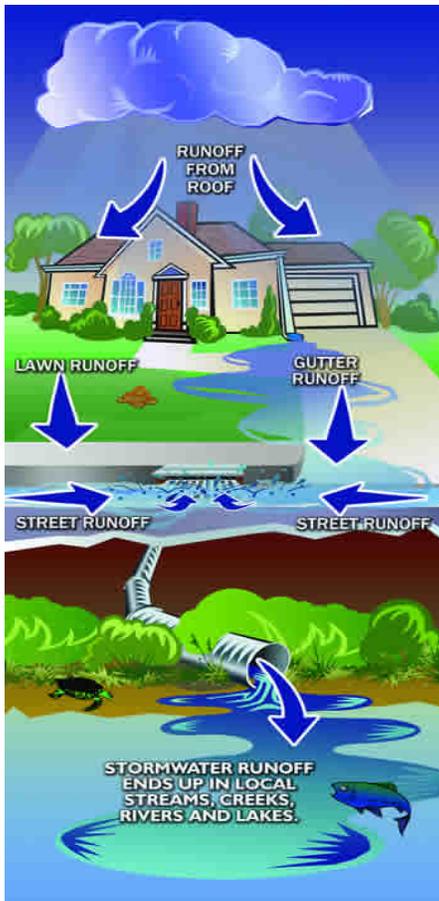


Image borrowed from <http://cleanwateroxford.org/stormwater.htm>

- Choose water-based paint over oil-based paints when painting your house. They are less toxic. Be careful using paints older than 15 years old because they may contain toxic levels of lead.
- Excess paint, thinners, solvents, saturated rags, empty aerosol cans, lead paint chips and chemical paint stripping residue are considered hazardous waste and should be taken to a household hazardous waste site.
- Try to determine the amount of paint you will need. If you have too much, save it and donate it to an organization that could use it.
- Never dump excess material from bricklaying or patio/driveway construction into a storm drain. Also don't hose down driveways, sidewalks or streets into the storm drains. Use a broom instead to sweep these areas and dispose of waste in the trash.
- If you have a septic tank, be careful what you flush. Don't flush oil, plastic, diapers or anything else that will not decompose. Have your septic tank inspected for pumping every three years, and if it needs to be pumped, use only properly licensed individuals.

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