



Use proper equipment for painting. Contact your local hardware or construction material stores for available tools and materials for painters including vacuum pumps, mats, sand or gravel bags, wattles, etc.



**City of Rancho Santa Margarita**

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## STORM WATER PROGRAM

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## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PAINTING SERVICES



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# Best Management Practices for Painters

This brochure provides information about using best management practices (BMPs) for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wash water generated from paint services.

## Why should we be concerned with painting wash water discharge?

Pollutants from paint washing and cleaning include many different types of toxic chemicals (solvents, mercury, petrochemicals etc.). These pollutants drain out of the work area finding their way into the street and into the storm drain systems which is polluting our creeks, beaches and Ocean. The implementation of the proper BMP's is required for compliance with State and local regulations which were developed to prevent water pollution and protect the public health.

*Please note that it is unlawful for wash water or other non-storm water, generated by painters, to enter storm drains. Painters that do not prevent waste water from entering the storm drain systems are subject to Administrative Citations and/or fines.*

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Painters must use the following BMPs to comply with the City's water quality requirements and water pollution prevention:

- Minimize water use.
- Collect paint chips and dust daily using dry methods such as sweeping or vacuuming to cleanup pollutants.
- Use drop clothes during paint removal, paint mixing and application of paint.
- Filter, reuse, and recycle paint thinner, and solvents whenever possible.
- Never rinse out paint brushes or equipment on an impervious surface
- Latex paint waste must be recycled. Never pour latex paint into the sanitary sewer or storm drain system.
- Wash area must be contained so that water does not drain down streets and gutters– use sand bag berms, wattles, or bermed mats.
- Protect downstream storm drain inlet so that wash water does not enter storm drain. Protection must be placed before starting the washing process and removed before you leave the site.
- Use a “wet-vac” to vacuum up the wash water for proper disposal.

## Options for wash water management

- **Preferred Option:**  
Zero discharge or closed-loop recycled water
- **Second Option:**  
Discharge into municipal sewer system including residential sewer cleanout, utility sink or toilet, etc. and precautions must be taken to prevent any heavy debris, hazardous materials or anything that can clog sink or toilet. Wash water may also be taken off site for proper disposal at your home or business.

**If you would like further information about water quality pollution prevention, please contact the Public Works Department at (949) 635-1800 or visit our website at [www.cityofrsm.org](http://www.cityofrsm.org). Thank you for your effort in helping to improve the quality of our environment.**