# **Only Rain** Down the Drain

Storm drains are designed to carry only rainwater. They flow directly to creeks and rivers and into Monterey Bay without any type of treatment. When painting materials, paving and construction materials, and household wastes enter storm drains. they pollute waterways and are toxic to aquatic life. These tips will help you reduce pollution from your home activities and protect our environment

Small changes can make a





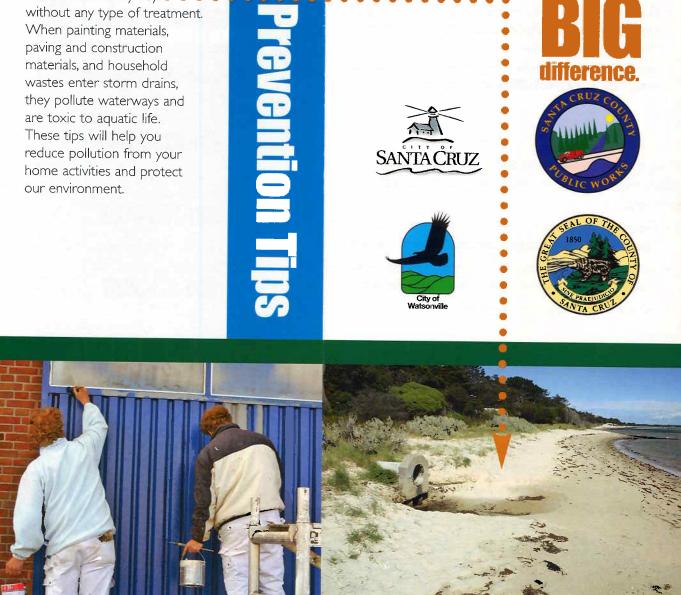


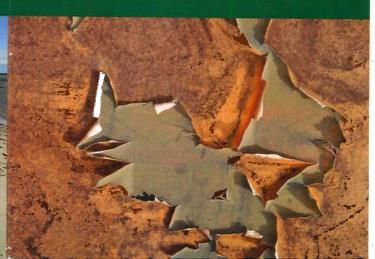


# **Pollution Prevention Tips**

# **Taking Care of Your Home** and the **Environment**

Painting, **General Home** Maintenance. and Construction





make a big difference. house and in your yard arb bruose againt ob changes in the way you cou pe easy, small Pollution prevention

For more information call:

Environmental Compliance City of Santa Cruz

831-420-6050

City of Watsonville

Utilities Customer Service

831-768-3133

Sanitation Operations County of Santa Cruz





## Taking Care of Your Home and the Environment

- Before cleaning brushes and rollers, brush excess paint onto newspaper or
- Dispose of thinners as household hazardous waste. Never pour them on Reuse paint thinners by filtering or letting the paint residue settle out.
- Facility. Please call 831-454-2606 for recycling and disposal information. • Used paint can be recycled at the County's Household Hazardous Waste the ground or into storm drains.
  - paint in spray guns and hoses back into the paint can.
  - Pour leftover paint from the roller pan back into the paint can. Spray the

### Consider using latex or water-based paints as an easier alternative. charge by your Household Hazardous Waste Facility (see below). disposed of as hazardous wastes. These wastes are accepted free of Oil-based paints, paint thinners, and cleaning solvents must be

Painting

- If using latex paints, the brush or roller may be rinsed in the sink.
- must be collected in the bucket and disposed of as a hazardous waste. bucket. All cleaning fluids and rinses, such as paint thinner or water, • If using oil-based paints, the brush or roller must be cleaned in a
- or storm drain. Mever rinse paint brushes or paint containers in the street

### General Home Maintenance

down the sink, toilet, on the ground, or into the storm drain. herbicides are hazardous wastes! They must be disposed of properly—they cannot be poured ome common household wastes, such as motor oil, antifreeze, oil-based paints, pesticides, and

- often blown into the street, clogging gutters and polluting our waterways. • Keep garbage can lids secure and recyclable items in bins. Loose trash is
- water to clean them, sweep first and don't use any soap or cleansers. Sweep walkways and driveways instead of hosing them off. If you must use

• Be sure that any contractors you hire abide by municipal codes and these

can soak into the ground and won't go into the street or storm drain.

 Rinse off mixers, tools, and other equipment in a dirt area where the water • Collect and reuse excess gravel and sand, or give them away to a neighbor.

Pick up pet waste and dispose in the garbage.

Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout,

pollution prevention tips.

and mortar in the trash.

### Concrete, Masonry and Asphalt

where they discharge the wastewater. Be sure that they do not

cleaning, into the sink or toilet. If you hire a cleaning service, ask

Dispose of soapy water, such as water from window or carpet

to outside areas because soaps and detergents are pollutants.

Do not plumb the drain from your dishwasher or washing machine

- Paving and construction materials, if allowed to reach the street via
- Use a tarp under mixers or on areas used for mixing. wind or rain, dog gutters, storm drains, and creeks.

discharge it into a storm drain.

- materials, and debris so that wind or rain will not carry them into Be sure to cover and store open cement and plaster bags, loose
- Sweep, instead of hosing down, the street or storm drain.
- when cleaning up.