



## WATER PROTECTION GUIDE TO

# Home Improvement Projects

## Construction

*Use barriers to contain wastewater from construction activities and protect storm drains.*

### Cement Mixer

- Place barriers to contain cement waste, do not allow water to flow away from the work area.
- Put hardened concrete in the trash.

### Cement or Tile Saw

- Place barriers to contain water waste, do not allow water to flow away from the work area.
- Allow slurry to dry and sweep up dust immediately or use a wet vacuum and drain water onto unpaved surface.

### Earth-Moving Equipment

- Protect storm drains with barriers to prevent soil from washing into them.
- Cover disturbed soils and stockpiles with plastic or landscape cloth.
- When the project is complete, seed and mulch disturbed areas immediately.
- Store soil or other stockpiles on a permeable surface like lawn or landscaping, or in a covered area. Surround with perimeter control and tarp if precipitation is possible.

### Sander

- Sweep up dust and put in the trash.



## Cleaning

*Collect used wash water that contains soap or other chemicals to dispose in an indoor drain.*

### Carpet Cleaner

- Discharge dirty water to a drain or toilet inside a building.

### Pressure Washer

- Whenever possible, capture the water for disposal in an indoor drain. Water that contains soap or other materials must be collected and is not allowed to enter the stormdrain or city streets.
- Pressure wash items on permeable surfaces such as lawns or gravel, or direct water onto these surfaces if it will not cause flooding or flow into a storm drain or body of water.

## Painting

*Contain paint, paint-related products, and wastewater from cleaning brushes and equipment.*

### Paint Sprayer

- Use hanging wind blocking tarps to prevent overspray and vacuum up loose paint chips.
- Water-based paint: Wipe excess paint out of sprayer, then rinse equipment into sink or toilet. Small amounts of leftover paint can be allowed to dry in the original container then put in the trash.
- Oil-based paint: Filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of all cleanup materials and excess paint as hazardous waste.

### Sand Blaster

- Capture paint chips on a plastic sheet or tarp and sweep up. Dispose of water-based paint waste in the trash and oil-based or hazardous paint as hazardous waste.



# Home projects can send sediment and pollutants into streams

The use of some rental equipment creates liquid waste. Allowing this wastewater to flow into a ditch, gutter, or storm drain can pollute our streams and lakes. Common sources of pollutants from project sites include:

- sediment from soil erosion
- construction and landscape materials and waste (e.g., paint, solvents, concrete, drywall, mulch, gravel)
- landscaping runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides
- spills of oil, fuel, and other fluids

# You can take action

Properly dispose of the waste created by rental equipment and home projects. Certain materials need to be disposed of as hazardous waste:

- Oil-based and hazardous (marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyltin paint)
- Large quantities of water-based paint

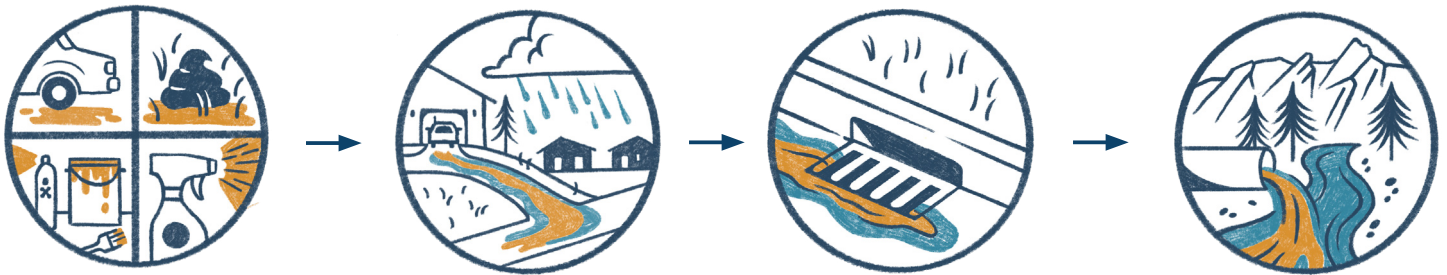
Other waste byproducts can be disposed of in the trash:

- Dried water-based paint
- Hardened concrete
- Dust from saws and sanders

Residents of Boulder County and the Town of Erie can bring hazardous materials to the Hazardous Materials Management Facility at 1901 63rd St., Boulder, CO 80301.

## From your Home to the Creek

**Polluted stormwater enters storm drains and flows directly to local waterways without receiving treatment at sewage plants.**



## Boulder St. Vrain Watershed

Our watershed is home to over 300,000 residents who depend on it for drinking water, floodplain functions, recreation, and other services. A watershed is an area of land where all streams and rainfall drain to the same place. A healthy watershed means a healthy community, environment, and economy.

Learn more about our watershed and how you can help protect it at [www.KeepitCleanPartnership.org](http://www.KeepitCleanPartnership.org).

