



Painting Pollution Prevention Tips

All paints, stains, solvents, varnishes and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife and humans, rains may wash these chemicals through storm drains into nearby creeks. Many people believe that storm water gets "cleaned" however it does not. Vital fish and wildlife habitat, and the beauty of our local creeks are at risk from hazardous chemicals and particles that may be washed down storm drains. To best protect our waterways follow these tips.

Painting and Refinishing

- Measure the room so that you buy the correct amount of paint
- Choose water-based paint or stain over oil-based when possible
- Use up all paint in your brush or roller by brushing or rolling it onto newspaper (ready for trash when dry)
- If you must use oil-based paints, rinse brushes with thinner. The used thinner and any waste must be disposed of at a household toxics facility
- Rinse brush and roller with water based paint in your sink or bathtub. Never pour paint or rinse water into the street gutter or outside drains
- Always store paint indoors
- Keep paint sealed to prevent spills
- Keep paint in original containers for disposal purposes. Do not remove labels
- Left over paint in the can may be put in the trash when dry
- Secure paint cans in your truck so they don't accidentally spill or fall out
- Have a number of towels or rags available to clean up spills, mop up the spill and discard in the trash or wash

Paint Stripping

- Paint older than 1978 may be lead-based and hazardous. Lead-based paint was banned in 1978. If you are removing paint used prior to this date (including surfaces that were painted over several times) a certified professional should be hired to remove it to prevent dust with lead in it from contaminating your residence.

- Paint chips and dust from nonhazardous dry stripping must be collected, bagged, and disposed of as trash.
- Seal and store hazardous material indoors

Paint Disposal

There are three options for residents to properly dispose of paint in Sonoma County: The Household Toxics Facility, Community Toxics Collections and Toxic Rover Pickup service. For more information, visit: Recycle Now or call the Eco -Desk: (707)-565-3375. Learn more about recycled paint through Paintcare at <https://www.paintcare.org/paintcare-states/california/#/everyone> .

Contact Information

- For more information on storm water and the City's storm drain system call the City of Santa Rosa's Utilities Department at (707) 543-4200, and ask for Storm Water.
- For proper disposal questions on hazardous materials and recycling call Eco-Desk at (707) 565-DESK (3375), or visit Recycle Now.
- Report spilled material by calling (707) 543-3800 especially if it reaches the storm drain system.
- If spilled material contains hazardous materials call 911 or (707) 528-5151.
- For more information about obtaining a Wastewater Discharge Permit, visit Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance section or call (707) 543-3369.
- Information on proper storage/disposal of hazardous materials contact the Santa Rosa Fire Department at (707) 543-3500.

Calculate How Many Gallons

1. Measure the square footage of the space to be painted by multiplying the height times the width of each surface.
2. For each surface, subtract the surface area (heightXwidth) of large features that will not be painted like bay windows and double doors. To guarantee that you will not have a shortage do not subtract the smaller features.
3. Add the results for each surface together, this should be the total amount of surface space to be painted.
4. Consider how many coats of paint you will need, multiply by that number. Usually you will need two coats.
5. Read the paint manufacturers label and it will tell you the square foot coverage per gallon. The average gallon of paint covers 350-450 square feet.
6. Take the total amount of surface space to be painted and divide it by the coverage per gallon provided by the manufacturer. Now you have the number of gallons you will need to buy! You may need more paint if you are covering dark with light paint or very light paint with dark paint. Bare, textured walls or walls that are heavily patched soak up a bit more paint so plan a little extra.