

POLLUTION PREVENTION

No matter how large or small your home improvement project is, pollution prevention must always be part of the process. Use the required best management practices (BMPs) listed here to protect our waterways as you make your improvements. Whether you do-it-yourself or hire a contractor, you are responsible for preventing pollution.



Who is H₂OC?

H₂OC is YOU. H₂OC is also a cooperative stormwater program which includes all 34 cities in Orange County, the County of Orange, and Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD). Clean and healthy beaches, creeks, rivers, bays, wetlands, and ocean are important to Orange County. H₂OC provides resources to residents and businesses to encourage personal action and prevent polluted runoff from entering our waterways.

Join Us

Visit [h2oc.org](https://www.h2oc.org) to learn more about runoff, water pollution, and how you can be the solution to runoff pollution and protect our water resources.

Contact

📞 **24-hour Pollution Reporting Hotline:**
877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)

📱 **24-hour Pollution Reporting Website:**
myOCeServices.ocgov.com

📞 **Orange County Stormwater Program:**
714-955-0600

For emergencies, dial 911

*oclandfills.com/hazardous

**calrecycle.ca.gov/condemo

C O N D U C T HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PROPERLY TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS



UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS TO PREVENT POLLUTION WHEN COMPLETING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Home improvement activities such as remodeling, stucco repair, painting, landscape improvements, and power washing can generate pollution that can harm Orange County's waterways. These pollutants can include paint, debris, chemicals, and more. If not properly managed, these pollutants can flow into Orange County's rivers, creeks, channels, and ocean through our storm drain system. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water that flows into storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways and must never contain pollutants generated by home improvement projects.

Understand the Requirements When Conducting Home Improvement Projects

General Construction

- Plan and complete projects when rain is not predicted.
- Keep all waste and debris away from the street, gutter, and storm drain. All area drains flow into the storm drain and can reach local waterways.
- Store all materials off of the ground, and under secured cover such as tarps or plastic sheets, and never near drains.
- When using concrete or drywall, liquid waste may be temporarily stored in a baby pool or plastic lined depression until dried. Powdery waste, like dry concrete, must be properly contained in a bag or box before placing into a dumpster.



Paint

- Before painting, prepare your work area with tarps to contain drips and spills.
- Rinse tools such as brushes, buckets, and rags in a sink connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Never wash tools where washwater can drain into the street, gutter, or storm drain. Discharges to the storm drain system are prohibited.
- Store leftover paint in original or clearly marked containers and in a dry location away from the elements.
- Dispose of water-based, oil-based, and aerosol paint at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC).*
- To dispose of small amounts of water-based paint, remove the lid, let it dry in the can, and recycle the can in your recycling bin.
- Visit paintcare.org for other disposal options.



For more information scan the QR Code or visit h2oc.org/resources/pollution-prevention-for-residents/home-repair-and-improvements/

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Use dry cleanup methods such as sweeping or vacuuming whenever possible and clean work areas at least daily.
- Clean paint, plaster, and drywall tools in a contained area to prevent pollution. No discharges to the storm drain are permitted.
- Dispose of solid or non-liquid debris in the trash or dumpster.
- Hazardous waste must be collected and disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC).*
- Vacuum or sweep sawdust and dispose of it in the trash or green waste bin.

Disposal & Recycling

- Use a construction and demolition recycling company to properly dispose of construction materials and debris.**



Spills & Cleanup

- Clean up spills immediately using absorbent material, then sweep, wipe, or vacuum and dispose of material properly.
- To clean a paint spill, use rags for a small spill and dry absorbent material for larger spills. Dispose of soiled rags and used dry absorbent material at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC).*
- Report spills that have entered the street, gutter, or storm drain to the 24-Hour Pollution Reporting Hotline by calling 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455) or visiting myOCeServices.ocgov.com.

Landscaping

- While new plants are being established, use BMPs such as mulch, straw wattles, or jute netting to prevent erosion.
- Use gravel bags or fiber rolls along the perimeter of your property to keep water on site and to prevent discharges to the street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Cover bare soil with mulch.
- Store all bulk materials including soil, mulch, or gravel under tarps while not in use.