

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and **protect** them from debris and other materials.
- **Sweep up** and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the **smallest amounts possible**, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills **immediately**, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use **nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable** products whenever possible.
- **Clean** paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- **Reduce** the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

***Storm drains connect to water bodies!
Remember: Only rain down the drain!***

For more information, visit

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

To report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Beecher at (708) 946-2261.