



WATER PROTECTION GUIDE TO Painting

Water-Based Paint

Also known as latex and acrylic paints, often used for indoor projects and surfaces.

Painting

- Protect and cover nearby storm drains.
- Use ground or drop cloths underneath outdoor painting and scraping. Collect paint chips and put in the trash.
- Use a ground cloth or oversized tub for paint mixing.

Cleanup

- Squeeze brushes and rollers to transfer as much paint as possible back into cans before rinsing into a sink. If outdoors, clean in portable containers that can be dumped into an indoor sanitary drain.
- For paint sprayers, wipe out excess paint then rinse equipment into sink or toilet.

Disposal

- Small amounts of leftover paint can be allowed to dry in the original container, then put into trash. For larger quantities of water-based paint, dispose as hazardous waste.
- Drop cloths and other supplies with paint residue can be put in the trash.



Oil-Based Paint

These paints contain hazardous chemicals and are often used on exterior surfaces.

Painting

- Protect and cover nearby storm drains.
- Use ground or drop cloths underneath outdoor painting and scraping. Collect paint chips to dispose as hazardous waste.
- Use a ground cloth or oversized tub for paint mixing.

Cleanup

- Brush out as much paint as possible then clean with thinner. Filter and reuse thinners and solvents.
- Use thinners to clean paint sprayers, then filter thinners for reuse.

Disposal

- Dispose of all cleanup materials, paint thinners, and excess paint as hazardous waste.

Report anyone dumping paint into a stormdrain or waterway. Call the CDPHE incident reporting hotline at 1-877-518-5608 or find contact information for your municipality's stormwater program at www.keepitcleanpartnership.org.

Paint is toxic to aquatic life

All paints and solvents contain toxic chemicals that can be dangerous to people and harmful to water quality and aquatic life. Allowing paint, paint-related products, or wastewater from cleaning brushes and paint sprayers to flow into a ditch, gutter, or storm drain pollutes our waterways.

You can take action

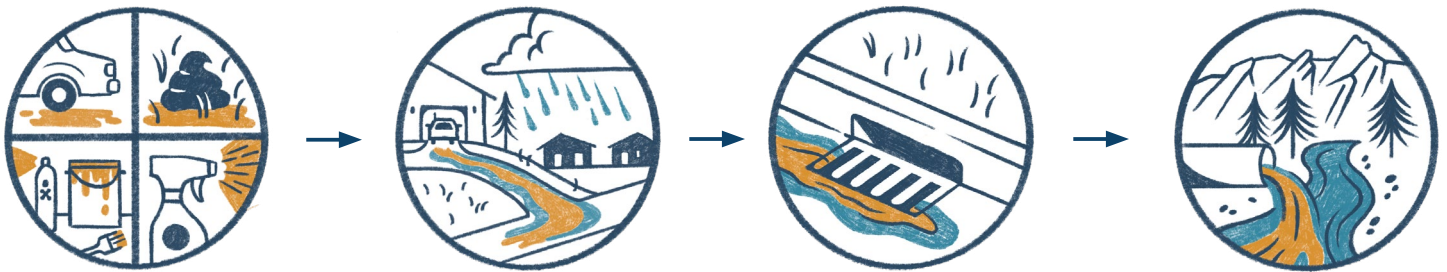
- Do not overbuy paint. Measure your space, talk to a store employee, and use an online paint calculator to buy the right amount.
- Attend a hazardous waste collection event in your community.
- Visit a Habitat ReStore or the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility for free or discounted recycled paint:

Habitat for Humanity - St. Vrain Valley ReStore 351 Sherman Dr, Longmont, CO 80501
Hazardous Materials Management Facility - 1901 63rd St., Boulder, CO 80301

- Drop off unneeded paint at these locations or find a drop-off site near you at www.paintcare.org.

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.

