

Help Keep Dover's Environment Clean

Having a clean environment is important. The quality of Dover's environment impacts the health of Everyone in our community as well as the economy.

While one home repair or renovation project might contribute only small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of all home repair and renovation projects in the City can have a serious effect if not managed properly. While we may not see much improvement in our water quality from using best management practices on one project, the cumulative effect of using them on all projects throughout Dover can have a significant benefit on our water quality.

Best Management Practices, BMPs, are actions that help prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part by implementing, or having our contractors implement, the BMPs outlined in this brochure.

The *Always and Never* of Home Repair and Renovation:

Always

- Control the area
- Contain your materials

Never

- Direct any waste or debris to the street or gutter
- Dump anything down the storm drain

For More Information

For information concerning proper waste management, contact the Delaware Solid Waste Management Authority (DSWA) at 1-800-404-7080.

For more information on building permits and planning issues, contact the Dover Permitting and Licensing Division at (302) 736-7011.

City of Dover
P.O. Box 475
Dover, DE 19903



Home Repair and Renovation:

Best Management Practices to Protect Our Waterways



City of Dover
Delaware

Home repair and renovation involves paints, solvents, adhesives, sediments, and other toxic materials. If we are not careful, these things can make their way into Dover's storm drain system, and ultimately into our waterways, making the water unhealthy or unsafe for both people and wildlife.

This brochure will provide a quick guide to home repair and renovation best management practices that will help keep unwanted wastes out of our waterways.

Construction Projects

- Keep construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains.
- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by covering them with secured plastic tarps. Never use the street to stockpile dirt, sand or other construction materials.
- Always cover dumpsters and check frequently for leaks.
- Schedule excavating and grading projects for dry days.
- Clean up leaks, drips and spills immediately.
- Never use a hose to clean dirty pavement or surfaces.



Painting Projects

- When removing old paint, use a tarp to collect dust and paint.
- Mix paints indoors.
- Use tarps while painting and place paint buckets in a pan or on plastic.

- Store paint cans and buckets away from potential contact with stormwater.
- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into streets, gutters or storm drains.
- For water-based paints – clean brushes and equipment in a sink connected to the sanitary sewer.
- For oil-based paints – clean up where you can collect the waste paint and solvents to be handled as small quantity hazardous waste, do not pour it into the sink or storm drain. Contact the DSWA at 1-800-404-7080 for information.



Outdoor Surface Treatments

These include wood preservatives, pavement seal coating, etc.

- Apply only as much of the chemical as the surface can absorb or is needed to cover the paved area.
- Soak up spills and excess chemicals with absorbent material or rags, rather than allowing them to flow to the storm drain or soak into the soil.
- When sealing pavement, prevent the sealant from reaching the storm drains using absorbent booms or rags stuffed into drain openings.
- If you clean a roof, pavement or sidewalk before applying preservative, sweep thoroughly to remove loose particles first, then wash with water if necessary.



Concrete and Masonry

- Never dispose of cement waste or concrete dust in the storm drain.
- Never wash excess material from bricklaying, patio, driveway or sidewalk construction to the street or storm drain.
- Do not mix more concrete or mortar than you will need for the project.
- Protect dry material from wind and rain.
- Set up and operate mixers on tarps.
- Protect fresh concrete and mortar from rainfall until it has dried.



Site and Project Management

- Store and dispose of wastes properly.
- Make sure waste containers are in good condition, secured and covered.
- Collect the wash water from glues, solvents, paints, wood preservatives, and other toxic materials to dispose of in an appropriate manner.
- Protect existing trees, shrubs and soils from damage by construction equipment.
- Do not leave rags that have chemicals on them exposed. Rainwater can saturate rags releasing the chemicals into storm drains or ground water.



Never discharge any waste to a street, ditch, storm drain, stream or the ground!