

BUSINESS STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Best Management Practices: Interior/Exterior Painters

Rain that falls on streets and parking lots, also known as stormwater, can carry oils, detergents, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals from the ground and into storm drains that lead straight to lakes, streams, or Puget Sound. This can pose health and safety risks to our community and environment.

As a interior or exterior building painting business, it's your duty to prevent drips and spills from polluting our waters.

Take action to prevent pollution at its source to keep our waters safe and clean!



Learn more about pollution prevention requirements in [Seattle's Stormwater Code](#).

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Interior/Exterior Painting Businesses

- ✓ **Preparation:** Use absorbent material or catch basin filter socks in and around storm drains to filter out solids, and maintain these filters weekly. (Manual Volume 4, BMP 23) If clogging occurs, increase the frequency of cleaning and consider process changes or other structural controls. (BMP 37)
- ✓ **Application:** Use ground/drop cloths to contain and collect waste and spent materials, train employees to reduce misuse and overspray, and do not conduct spraying, blasting or sanding over water or in windy conditions. Clean and sweep regularly to remove debris. Do not hose down the debris. (BMP 23)
- ✓ **Cleanup:** Clean painting equipment coated with water-based paint into sinks and drains connected to the sanitary sewer. Verify these connections before cleaning equipment. Clean up spills with rags and other absorbent materials immediately. Do not hose down the area; no washwater, paint or chemicals can impact the drainage system. (BMP 23)
- ✓ **Storage and Disposal:** Close all containers with tight-fitting lids and regularly inspect them for leaks, corrosion or damage (Manual Volume 4, BMP 28). Store all paints, finishes or solvents inside a building or in covered secondary containment. (BMP 23)

See the [next page](#) for general BMPs to prevent stormwater pollution. ►



General Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are processes that businesses, individuals and responsible parties in Seattle should implement to prevent pollutants from contaminating stormwater runoff and entering receiving waters. General BMPs are required for all real property, and additional BMPs are recommended for specific pollution generating activities.



Find and Protect Onsite Storm Drains

Find where water will flow from your work site and protect your storm drains to prevent pollutants from entering local waterways. Best practice is to move activities that could release oils, chemicals, detergents, or other pollutants away from locations that could lead to a storm drain, and properly contain pollutants.



Train Employees

Ensure your staff are properly trained in the following key practices:

- How to safely store and use chemicals and hazardous materials so they do not pollute the ground, drains, or waterways
- What can be washed and where so that soap, soil, oil, and other chemicals do not enter storm drains
- How to create a spill plan and clean all spills promptly



Order a
FREE
spill kit

Prevent and Clean Up Spills

Create and follow your spill prevention and clean-up plan. A spill can be a one-time event, a continuous leak, or frequent small spills. All types must be addressed.

If you have a spill, call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 386-1800.



Dispose of Fluids and Wastes

Responsible parties must properly dispose of solid and liquid waste, as well as contaminated stormwater and street waste. Depending on the type of waste, there are a few options for disposal:

1. Permitted centralized waste treatment facilities
2. Municipal solid waste and recycling facilities
3. Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities

CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL LIST OF POLLUTION PREVENTION BMPS

Language Support

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

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통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000번으로 전화해 주십시오.

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