



## City of Valdosta Engineering Department *Stormwater Division*

### PAINTING

#### What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, parking lots, roofs, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

#### Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

The stormwater system consists of catch basins, storm pipes, and open ditches, that collect rain and transport it to the nearest waterway. Litter, debris, and other pollutants are not removed before it reaches our waterways.

Paint, mineral spirits, thinners and similar liquids can result in environmental problems if they are not stored or disposed of properly. When these highly toxic materials enter the stormwater system, they can kill fish and damage the aquatic habitat.

It is particularly important for painters to ensure that the tools and materials they use on the job do NOT enter the stormwater system and thereby create a negative effect on our community's resources.

#### What can I do to reduce the risk of stormwater pollution?

Here are a few tips on how you can help reduce stormwater pollution:

- Educate staff about stormwater pollution
- Use non-toxic or low-toxic alternatives wherever possible
- Identify stormwater infrastructure at each job and avoid conducting your work near the stormwater entry points
- Keep a spill kit on hand
- Use waste bins with lids so that litter does not blow around
- When cleaning brushes and rollers, paint the brush onto a newspaper, rinse with a small amount of water, and dispose of water onto a garden bed (if client allows)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Engineering Department  
P.O. Box 1125  
Valdosta, Georgia 31603  
Phone: (229) 259-3530  
[www.valdostacity.com](http://www.valdostacity.com)

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