AUBURN UNIVERISTY
Department of Risk Management & Safety
Environmental Programs

PAINTING

Best Management Practices

In the City of Auburn, water in the streets, gutters, and storm drains flows directly to local creeks, the Saugahatchee Creek, the Tallapoosa River Basin and ultimately to Mobile Bay without any treatment. If proper control measures are not taken, construction sites can generate wastewater and runoff that carry debris and other harmful pollutants into our storm drain system. These pollutants can clog storm drain inlets and pipes, damage sensitive creek habitats, and pollute the state's bay and ocean.

In order to reduce the amount of pollutants reaching the storm drain system and local waterways, Risk Management & Safety has developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) for various types of construction work. The BMPs listed below are for any painting work performed on the Auburn University campus and any outlying units owned by the University.

- Paint, paint thinner, and rinse water containing either of these may never be discharged into the storm drain system. In addition, wastewater or runoff containing paint or paint thinner may never be discharged into a storm drain.

- When there is a risk of a spill reaching the storm drain, nearby storm drain inlets must be protected prior to starting painting.

- When work is conducted on a bridge, take precautions to prevent runoff from reaching the water body beneath the bridge.

- Clean up spills immediately.

- Paintbrushes and containers may never be cleaned or rinsed into a street, gutter, creek, or storm drain.

- When cleaning brushes and rollers after painting, brush out excess paint onto newspaper or cardboard. If using latex paints, the brush or roller may then be rinsed in a sink that is plumbed to the sanitary sewer. If using oil-based paints, the brush or roller needs to be cleaned with paint thinner. Paint thinners cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer and must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

- Leftover paint in the roller pan should be drained back into the paint can. If using paint hoses and guns, spray out the paint residue into the paint can.

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- Recycle, return to supplier or donate unwanted water-based (latex) paint. Dried latex paint and empty paint cans may be disposed of in the garbage.

- Leftover oil-based paint may be recycled or disposed of as hazardous waste. Paint thinners must be disposed of as hazardous waste. For more information about hazardous waste disposal, contact Environmental Programs Management at (334) 844-4870.

Non-hazardous paint chips and dust from dry stripping and sand blasting may be swept up or collected and disposed of as trash. Chemical paint stripping residue and chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin must be disposed of as a hazardous waste.

Cover or berm nearby storm drain inlets when stripping or cleaning building exteriors with high-pressure water prior to painting. The wastewater may not be discharged to the storm drain system. The wastewater must be collected and may be discharged to the sanitary sewer if the building exterior paint does not contain lead (usually buildings painted after 1978) or mercury.

If grinding or blasting is used to remove old paint, protect nearby storm drain inlets with a protective cover such as a heavy rubber mat designed for this purpose. Paint dust, particles, and other debris must be completely cleaned up, preferably by sweeping, after the job is done.

Never leave or abandon materials onsite, and ensure that nothing has “drifted” towards the street, gutter, or catch basin.

When the job is completed, collect all unused or waste materials and call Billy Cannon (334-703-0419) or Somchai Segrest (334-740-9175) to arrange for disposal at the EHS Facility at 971 Camp Auburn Road.

For additional information, contact Environmental Programs Management at (334) 844-4870.