

ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED

If you have excess paint, drain it back into cans, or brush it out onto newspaper or cardboard. Use leftover paint for touch up jobs or give it to the property owner or a community group. Spray out residue in spray hoses and guns into a can.

CLEANING EQUIPMENT

Thinners and solvents cannot be disposed of into the sewer system. Filter out paint chips and reuse, or dispose of at a hazardous waste facility.

Water-based paints can be washed out to inside sinks, or onto an unsealed surface such as a lawn or gravel where it will not flow to a stormwater drain or natural water if it rains.

Ensure that you leave the site clean and tidy, where all excess paint is removed and paint chips or residue is cleaned up. Never discharge any painting waste into the stormwater system.

STORING AND DISPOSING PAINT

Keep paint and solvent containers closed to prevent spillages and protect them from rainfall. Keep paints and thinner stored in a secure area to avoid vandalism. A bunded and covered area that will contain any spills is also preferable.

Recycle oil and water-based paints by putting them back into their containers. Dried paint can be put into the general rubbish. Take lead-based paints to a transfer station (household only).

THE LAW

In New Zealand the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is a law designed to protect our environment. In Whangārei it is illegal for any substance to be discharged into natural water, the stormwater system, land, or air unless authorised by a resource consent or a district or regional plan. Polluters can be fined up to \$1000, issued abatement notices or prosecuted and fined up to \$600,000 for breaching the RMA.

REMEMBER

- Wash out water-based painting equipment to sinks, inside drains or unsealed ground.
- Use drip trays when transferring or pouring paint.
- Clean any spills immediately. Do not hose down to stormwater drains.
- Clean up sanding dust and paint chips, and dispose to a bin.
- Store all paints, thinners and other liquids in a secure, covered location.

All outside drains are for rainwater only and drain straight into the local stream or the sea!

For any illegal discharges, phone our
24/7 Environmental Hotline
0800 504 639

To speak to one of our Environmental
Monitoring Officers, phone **0800 002 004**

PREVENTING POLLUTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

Paint



THE EFFECTS OF PAINT

Enamel, water, oil and lead-based paint are all substances that can cause serious harm to our environment. They may contain toxic solvents, heavy metals (such as lead, cadmium and mercury), and suspended solids.

Runoff of residential or commercial painting activities to the stormwater system directly affects our environment as it impacts local waterways and the organisms in them.

Impacts include:

- poisoning animals and plants
- restricting light entering the stream
- smothering organisms and clogging gills and eyes of fish
- reducing oxygen levels in waterways and making fish and shellfish poisonous if consumed.



WHAT TO DO WHEN A SPILL OCCURS

Cease, contain and clean up all spills immediately.

Never wash spills into stormwater drains. Use absorbent materials and dispose of these responsibly. Be prepared. Make sure you have the right materials to deal with a spill.

PREPARING PAINTING SURFACES

When preparing a surface to paint, you must ensure that all waste is collected, including dust or washwater.

- Avoid generating washwater.
- Use plastic drop cloths to collect all waste.
- Clean up all painting dust, chips, particles and debris.
- Paints produced before 1978 may be lead-based, and contain mercury or tributyltin. These paints are considered hazardous waste, so dry sweep and dispose of them at an appropriate collection facility.

Solvent and paint strippers are considered hazardous waste and extremely toxic. Less toxic alternatives are citrus-based paint removers.

If water blasting is unavoidable, then ensure controls are installed before you commence:

- divert washwater to unsealed ground or dispose of it into the sewer network with consent from the network provider
- ensure no contaminants enter the stormwater system
- pump or bucket out catchpits once completed
- avoid windy conditions.



BEFORE YOU START WORKS

- Cover and protect all stormwater drains at all times while you are painting.
- Determine how much liquid and solid waste will need to be disposed of and plan ahead.
- Check the weather conditions before you paint and avoid painting in the rain.
- Keep all painting tins and equipment well away from stormwater drains.

WHILE PAINTING

Store all your equipment inside so that paint cannot be washed off in the rain. Use drips trays in mixing and painting areas and when transferring paint.

- Use water-based paints whenever possible.
- Buy only the quantity of paint that you will need; use a paint calculator on a supplier's website.