

This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.

Painting Operation Storm Water BMPs

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks - Maintenance Staff Guide, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jennifer Malcolm, HQ Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0086,

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for painting operations minimize exposure of paints and solvents to storm water run-on and runoff. BMPs safeguard against the accidental release of painting materials into storm drainage systems and natural watercourses.

Every facet of painting operations, from storage and transport to application and cleanup, requires implementation of pollution prevention practices. The following BMPs from the *Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Maintenance Staff Guide* address storm water protection for painting operations:

- H7b – Painting
- D6 – Graffiti Removal
- M1b – Paint Striping and Markings
- T7a – Storage of Hazardous Materials



Paint totes stored on pallets indoors.

Paint Storage

Following these storage practices will reduce the exposure of paints and supplies to storm water run-on and runoff at maintenance facilities:

- Where feasible, store paint materials in an area with a canopy or roof designed to direct runoff away from the storage area.
- Check for leaking or ruptured paint containers.

Paint Transport

Careful transport of painting material to and from the work site helps to prevent accidental spills:

- Load and unload paint on level ground when using a forklift to minimize the chance of tip-overs and potential spills.
- Ensure that all paint pallets are securely fastened before moving.
- Secure the paint containers to the transport vehicle using approved methods such as ropes and straps.
- Transport paint and materials to and from work sites in containers with positive locking lids.
- Do not transfer or load paint over or near drain inlets, storm water drainage systems, or watercourses.

Paint Surface Preparation and Application

Proper application practices inhibit paint chips and excess paint drift from being transported to storm drainage systems or watercourses by wind or other means.

- Monitor weather and wind direction to ensure that paint drift is minimized and does not enter drain inlets, storm water drainage systems, or watercourses.
- If possible, use canvas or plastic tarps under the work area to capture excess paint or paint chips.
- To avoid spills, follow proper operational procedures for lane striping and paint applications.
- Ensure that the paint spray gun remains closed when not in use to prevent leaks.

Paint Cleanup and Waste Disposal

Thorough cleanup and disposal practices ensure that paint-related hazardous materials are handled properly.

- Do not clean out the paint spray gun over the ground.
- Wipe up small paint spills immediately with rags. For larger spills, use dry absorbent material.
- Collect all excess material and paint wash solutions in appropriate containers. Secure all containers and transport to a Maintenance facility for proper disposal.
- Dispose of used absorbent and rags, and empty paint and solvent containers in appropriate containers at a Maintenance facility that has approved storage areas.
- Special procedures may be required when removing yellow stripes.
- Follow proper waste disposal procedures. Dispose of hazardous waste according to regulations. Contact your District Maintenance HazMat Manager or refer to your Maintenance Hazardous Waste Manual for more information and guidance.



Paint transfer and mixing is conducted over a canvas tarp away from drain inlets and watercourses.