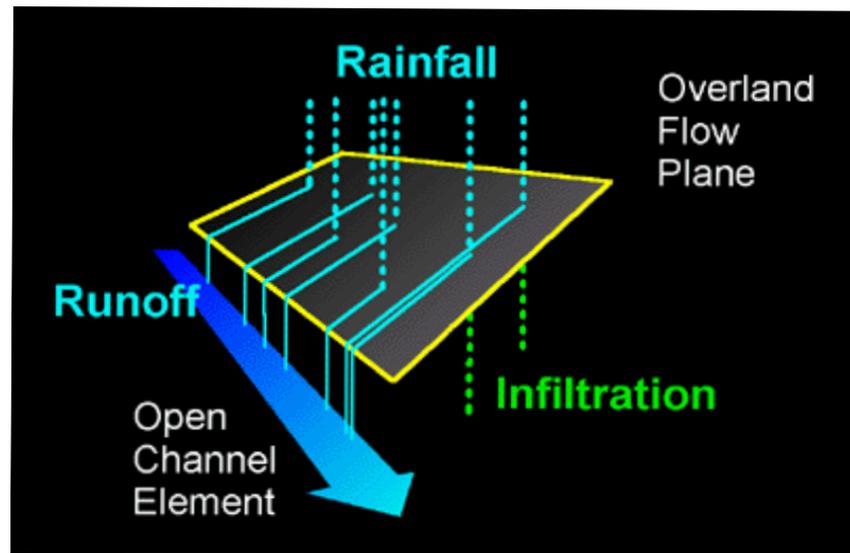


Improving Water Quality: *Inlet Marking Information Booklet*



City Of Takoma Park
Department of Public Works
31 Oswego Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910



Stencil-A-Drain Campaign

Storm drain stenciling



Participate in our “Mark-A-Drain” campaign.

Mark-A-Drain campaign, initiated by the City Engineer, Department of Public Works, seeks to curb stormwater pollution through hands-on service learning techniques like storm drain marking. Storm drain marking

is the act of labeling storm drain inlets with messages that remind people not to dump anything down the storm drain. It is a worthwhile, educational program designed for 5th through 12th grade

students, adults, local youth groups and community or church groups.

Volunteers can help us reach our goal of reaching more than **600 storm drain inlets** citywide.

Where does the pollution come from?

There are many different types of pollution but the most common one is runoff. Water flows downhill washing streets, lawns, roofs and other areas that are not permeable.



Department of Public Works Stenciling Program

Storm drain inlets, located near curbside and streets, act as a conduit to local waterways, including the Sligo Creek, Anacostia River that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Unlike household drains that discharge directly to a wastewater treatment plant, storm drains travel underground and funnel directly to our waterways untreated. And when water is contaminated with pollutants, it creates stormwater pollution and erosion, which seriously impacts fish, plants, and land.

What are catch basins or storm drain inlets?

Catch basins and storm drain inlets are curbside receptacles whose sole function is to catch surface water runoff from rainfall and deliver it to the storm drain system, where it's eventually flows to local creeks and rivers.

How can I help reduce pollution?

Stenciling storm drain inlets is a great way for concerned citizens to participate in helping reduce stormwater pollution. By stenciling a message on neighborhood storm drain inlets that flow ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay, you can help to educate others that only rain should go down the storm drain. For more information about the stenciling

Runoff: *Run-off is the most common cause of pollution. When rain or snow falls onto the earth, it just doesn't sit there -- it starts moving according to the laws of gravity. A portion of the precipitation seeps into the ground to replenish earth's ground water. However, in developed areas like Takoma Park, most of the rainwater run into storm darins and into Sligo Creek.*



What is storm drain stenciling? *Painting a message on to the inlet, reminding people that not to put trash or pour liquid like oil into the inlet. Volunteer help is vital for the Stormwater Wamagement Program to meet its goals of stenciling all storm drain inlets in the city.*

What's in the stenciling kit?

1. *Five gallon bucket to hold equipment*
2. *Curb Markers*
3. *Whisk broom*
4. *Traffic cone*
5. *Inlet Marking Record*
6. *Roll large plastic trash bag*
7. *Tubes of Glue*
8. *Gloves*
9. *Safety vests*
10. *Dust masks*
11. *Safety goggles (op)*
12. *Paper towels for cleanup*

program, contact The Department of Public Works at:
(301)891-7633

City Engineer: (301) 891-7620

Is storm drain stenciling difficult?

No. In fact it's easy. The City of Takoma Park provides Drain Marking kits to individuals and groups who want to participate. These kits include all supplies necessary to stencil storm drains, such as stencils, paint, maps and gloves.

Where can I dispose of used oil, antifreeze and other toxic products?

The Department of Public Works collected used oil and antifreeze free of charge at 31 Oswego Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910. For additional information call (301) 891-7620

How many people can participate? Is there an age limit?

Stenciling teams must consist of two or more people, with at least one adult over 18 years of age. No minor less than ten years of age will be allowed to participate unless supervised by his/her parent or legal guardian.

Department of Public Works Stenciling Program

Common Pollutants Found in Runoff that Contribute to stormwater Pollution:

Motor Oil

Used motor oil significantly contributes to the pollution of many waterways. Petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals found in used motor oil pose a direct threat to fish and other aquatic species. One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. That's equivalent to the water in 12 residential swimming pools.

Pet Waste

Pet waste contains bacteria, which in excess can contribute to an increase in water pollution. Organic waste (pet waste) requires extra oxygen to decompose naturally, hence depriving fish and plants from oxygen and sunlight to survive. Please remember to always clean up after your pet.

Yard Waste

When left in the gutter or dumped into storm drains, yard wastes travel directly to local rivers and creeks. Once in the water, yard wastes decompose rapidly. This process adds excessive





waste to our waterways, which is detrimental to the health of Sligo Creek, the Anascostia River and the Chesapeake Bay. Yard wastes also clog storm drains, rendering them ineffective and causing excessive water buildup, floods.

Pesticides/Fertilizers

Avoid over-watering after applying pesticides and fertilizers. Pesticides that run-off into the storm drains can be toxic to aquatic life and pollute local creeks and rivers. It takes only one teaspoon of diazinon, a common garden pesticide, to make 2 ½ million gallons of water toxic to some forms of aquatic life.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips



Cars create lots of stormwater pollution. Debris from brake pads, tires, and oil leaks accumulate on the streets and create toxic runoff. When possible, walk or ride your bike instead of riding in the car.

If you spill motor oil on the driveway, soak it up with kitty litter, sweep it up and take it to the

Department of Public Works Stenciling Program

Montgomery County household hazardous waste center.

Visit a different location along Sligo creek banks every month! Leave the creek and its banks a little cleaner than they were when you came.

Reduce, reuse and recycle whenever you can. The animals and plants on the rivers and the creek are counting on you.

Buy household and garden products that are “least toxic” to the environment.

Clean your sidewalks and patios with a broom, dustpan and garbage can, instead of washing them with the garden hose. Don’t over-water lawns and gardens after applying commercial products. Over-watering can send large amounts of pesticides and fertilizer directly into storm drains and then into Sligo Creek. Instead of using pesticides, encourage “good bugs” to live in your garden. Good bugs, like ladybugs, love to eat “bad bugs” like aphids.



Help Keep our rivers and bay clean, do not dump toxics or trash in storm drains



Safety Precautions

1. Volunteers must wear safety vests at all times.
2. Drain Marking is prohibited on highways, arterials and other busy streets. Mark drains in the areas approved by the City of Takoma Park.
3. Never work alone, your partner must be watching traffic flow while you Mark.
4. Stay off the streets and out of traffic lanes while Mark
5. Avoid using excess glue and working too close to vehicles parked by the inlet, avoid littering on anyone's private property.

Drain Marking procedures

1. Obtain, sign and return individual liability waiver to the volunteer coordinator. Review Drain Marking guidelines, safety precautions and Marking procedures prior to any work.
2. Wear old cloths and shoes appropriate for work on the street. Wear the safety vest at all times.
3. Locate drain inlets based on the map provided.
4. Place cones one foot from the sidewalk to make drivers aware of your presence.
5. Determine the best location for Marking. The preferred position is on the top of the curb, above the drain inlet.
6. Use the whiskbroom to clean the area to be Marked
7. Place the Mark on the curb and secure the Mark by taping the corners.
8. Wear gloves, dust mask, and safety goggles before application of the glue

9. Carefully lift the marker by first removing the masking tape. Then wipe excess glue with a paper towel and put the trash in the trash bag provided.
10. If the Mark message smudges or is unreadable, do not install until you clean it off.

Your technique will improve with the next drain inlet.

11. Please make note of the inlet you just Marked on the Record provided. If the inlet you are scheduled to Mark has a mark already see if it has a message in Spanish that you can apply.
13. If you notice oil, paint, or any other substances in the drain inlet make note of the location and the suspected pollutant. When you return the kit- inform the stencil coordinator of your finding in order to report it to the proper authorities.
14. Gather materials and move to the next location, handing out information booklets to nearby pedestrians and home owners
15. When work is completed, please return all un-used materials to the coordinator. Please remember to keep streets clean and when possible leave them cleaner than how you found them.
16. Clean glue tubs according to the directions on the back.