



# Painting Without Polluting

Improper storage disposal of paint and stains is harmful to the environment and hazardous to public health. Paint materials, including paint thinner, cleaners and even paint chips and old paints contain chemicals that pollute water and are harmful to humans, plants and animals. It is important to use, store and dispose of these materials safely. When purchasing, using or disposing of paint and related materials, please keep in mind the following:

- Avoid buying too much paint—careful planning and measuring will help you buy just what you need and reduce the need to dispose of excessive amounts of leftover paint
- Before beginning any painting project, prepare the area—keep absorbent material on hand to maintain and clean spills, protect surrounding areas with plastic or tarps if possible, and note locations of storm drains/ sewers—NEVER allow paint, stains or solvents to enter the storm sewer system!
- Before cleaning brushes or rollers, remove as much excess paint as possible by brushing or rolling over absorbent material
- NEVER wash brushes, rollers or equipment with water in the vicinity of storm sewer inlets!
- Securely close or cover paint cans and equipment to prevent leaks and spills. If leakage does occur, clean up immediately with absorbent materials and dispose of cleanup supplies properly

**Use Water-Based Paint Whenever Possible—Latex Paints are Much Less Toxic Than Oil-Based Paint and Don't Require Harmful Chemical Solvents to Thin or Clean!**



**Consider donating leftover paint instead of trashing it. There are several Habitat for Humanity Restores in northern Virginia as well as theater groups and schools who may be able to use your leftovers!**



For information on the stormwater management program, please contact the Department of Public Works, at 703-771-2790 or e-mail [publicworks@leesburgva.gov](mailto:publicworks@leesburgva.gov). You may also visit our website at [www.leesburgva.gov](http://www.leesburgva.gov)