

# Are you Planning a Home Improvement Project?



During rainstorms or periods of snowmelt, stormwater runoff washes much of the grease, oil and other pollutants from roads, driveways, rooftops, parking lots and other impervious surfaces into stormwater conveyance systems. These stormwater systems flow directly into nearby streams, lakes and rivers. By reducing stormwater runoff, you will help to protect local water resources.

## Ways to Reduce Stormwater Runoff from Household Construction Projects

- ❖ **Protect storm drains:** Before beginning a project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other construction materials.
- ❖ **Waste disposal:** Never put gasoline, oil, gardening products, pesticides or construction waste down a storm drain. Sweep up and properly dispose of yard waste and construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- ❖ **Spills and storage:** Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts of possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately and dispose of the waste safely. Store household substances in secure containers to avoid leaks and spills.
- ❖ **Product selection:** Use non-toxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.
- ❖ **Cleaning up:** Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Dispose of excess paints through household hazardous waste collection programs, or donate it to local organizations.
- ❖ **Water infiltration:** Increase the amount of vegetated areas in your yard. Direct downspouts away from driveways and other paved surfaces and in the direction of nearby lawns or rain barrels.