

# Storm Drain Stenciling

Help your neighborhood keep your storm drains pollution free

January 2015



Many storm drains in our community are stenciled with an important message because storm drains lead to streams or the groundwater, directing untreated stormwater runoff to our water supply: **"Only Rain Down the Drain"**

Stenciling next to storm drains help raise awareness about the link between the storm drain system and water quality. Pesticides and garden chemicals, soap from car washing, pet waste, and oil from cars all get washed off lawns and streets, down storm drains, and into our water.



## Project Checklist:

Gather the information you need to get started prior to organizing your work party.

**Choose a location** - Staff will help you map all the storm drains in your area and identify the locations that are safe to stencil.

**Reserve a storm drain stenciling kit** - Contact the Clark County Clean Water program to reserve a kit for your project at (360) 397-2121.

**Review the stenciling kit information** - Review all the materials in the packet, including stenciling guidelines, equipment list, safety review, instructions and project tracking form. Contact Clark County's Clean Water Program (CWP) with any questions.

**Project set-up** - Prior to starting work, review all the safety guidelines with your volunteers, have them sign the volunteer agreement and review your work plan for the project (how many sites, where location, roles and responsibilities).

**Complete your project** - Ensure that everyone has their safety gear on and all instructions are followed, so this is a safe and fun outing.

**Return the kit and forms** - Return the storm drain kit and all materials in the assigned tub. Review the checklist to make sure all equipment is included. Return tracking and volunteer forms to CWP staff.

## Equipment Checklist:

This simple kit will have everything you need to host a work party - you supply volunteers!

- Traffic safety vests (6)
- Traffic safety cones (2)
- Safety orange flags (2)
- Safety goggles (2)
- Wire brush, whisk broom, dustpan (1 ea)
- Storm drain stencils (2)
- Latex gloves
- Spray paint (2 white)  
*Traffic White (Seymour Brand #20-642)*
- Spray paint applicator (1)
- Carry-all tub on wheels (1)
- Trash bags
- Handy-wipes
- Information kit: safety protocols, map, instructions, tracking form

Looking for a more permanent marker?



Contact the Clean Water Program to see if storm drain medallions may be available for your neighborhood. These metal markers will provide the message for years to come.

More information can be found at our website:

[www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater](http://www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater)

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!**



# Storm Drain Stenciling

## Safety Guidelines

Make sure all of your volunteers are informed on all safety protocols

- ❑ **Volunteers will stencil drains along residential streets only** - No stenciling will be permitted along arterials, highways or other high traffic speed or volume due to potentially hazardous conditions.
- ❑ **Stencil drains that are free from obstructions or hazards** - Do not stencil near parked cars or other objects that might be damaged by paint spray. Be aware of wind conditions.
- ❑ **Apartments and housing developments are private property that require permission of the property owner** - Contact the owner in advance and get their written permission prior to stenciling a drain.
- ❑ **Always put on safety gear before entering the roadway** - Place cones facing on-coming traffic.
- ❑ **When stenciling storm drains along the side of the road, be conscious of vehicular traffic** - Assign 1-2 people to use the orange flag and watch for traffic.
- ❑ **Make sure to face on-coming traffic** - Be aware of traffic flows near your work space.
- ❑ **Adult supervision is required** - When working with children under 18 years of age.
- ❑ **Stay out of the roadway when not working** - Remember that drivers may not always see you.

## Instructions

Follow the steps below to complete your project and then return all items to Clark County

1. **SET- UP** - Review the safety guidelines for working in the street. Position cones and safety equipment and confirm each person's role in your project.
2. **SURFACE PREPARATION** - Use the wire brush and/ or broom to remove excess dirt from the area to be stenciled. Do not brush dirt into the storm drain! Sweep it up into the dust pan and put in the trash bag.
3. **LETTERING STENCIL** - Lay stencil flat on the street side of the storm grate or inlet (i.e. out of the way of flowing dirt and leaves).
4. **SPRAY PAINT APPLICATION** - Follow the steps below:
  - a. Shake can vigorously for at least ONE minute after rattle in can is heard and then occasionally during use.
  - b. With safety goggles on, gently insert spray can into the applicator wand lining up the nozzle with actuator. (You can just spray using the can if you prefer)
  - c. Squeeze trigger in handle of wand to activate the spray.
  - d. Hold paint can perpendicular to the ground 2-3 inches above the stencil.
  - e. Lay word/fish stencil on the smooth, clean pavement near drain and stencil lightly with white paint. Ensure that all the words and images have been covered. DO NOT overspray the white paint. 2-3 light coats works best.
5. **STENCIL CLEAN UP** - Carefully remove stencil, wipe off excess paint from stencils and allow 5 minutes for paint to dry. Place dry stencils back in the kit to avoid damage.
6. **WRAP-UP** - Pick up all materials and return to the kit. Double check you have everything. Return all forms and tubs to Clark County.

### Instructional video now available!

Visit [www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater](http://www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater) - **What you can do link**. On the storm drain marking page there is an instructional video to help you and your group successful complete your community service project.

Clean Water Program  
Clark County Environmental Services  
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(360) 397-2121, [cleanwater@clark.wa.gov](mailto:cleanwater@clark.wa.gov)  
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