

*City of Bluff City*

# **HOME MAINTENANCE, PAINTING AND REPAIR**

## **Best Management Practices**

### **Painting**

*Oil-based paints, paint thinners, and cleaning solvents must be disposed of as hazardous wastes.*

- Never rinse paint bushes or paint containers in the street or storm drain.
- After painting, bush out excess paint onto newspaper or cardboard prior to cleaning bushes and rollers. If using latex paint, the brush or roller may be rinsed in the sink. If using oil based paints, the brush or roller needs to be cleaned with paint thinner.
- Drain leftover paint from the roller pan back into the paint can. Spray the paint remaining in spray guns and hoses back into the paint can.
- Reuse paint thinners by filtering or letting the paint residue settle out. Dispose of thinners as Household Hazardous Waste. Never pour them on the ground or into storm drains.
- Used paint can be recycled at the Sullivan County's Solid Waste Facilities. A list of locations can be found at <http://www.sullivancounty.org/landuse.htm>. Please call (423) 279-2865 for recycling and disposal information.

### **General Home Maintenance**

*Some common household wastes, such as motor oil, antifreeze, oil-based paints, pesticides, and herbicides, are hazardous wastes! They must be disposed of properly---they cannot be poured down the sink, toilet, on the ground or in storm drains.*

- Do not plumb the drain from your dishwasher or washing machine to outside areas because soapy wastes belong in the sanitary sewer, not the environment.
- Dispose of soapy water, such as water from window or carpet cleaning, into the sink or toilet---not the storm drain. If you hire a cleaning service, ask them where they discharge the wastewater. Be sure that they do not discharge into a storm drain.
- Keep garbage can lids on securely. Loose debris and litter often blow into the street and end up clogging gutters and polluting our waterways.
- Sweep walkways and driveways rather than hosing them off. If you must use water to clean them, sweep first and don't use any soap or cleansers.

*For more information, call the City's Stormwater Coordinator*

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