

Storm Drain Stenciling

Storm drain stenciling creates awareness and is an education tool for the community. Whatever goes down the drains definitely affects our health, groundwater, aquatic plants, fish and body of water.

To increase the public awareness of stormwater pollution the City of Des Moines has a great volunteer activity for citizens to participate.

Why do we stenciling our drains?

Stormwater does not go to a treatment plant. Instead, stormwater carries trash that is dumped into gutters or storm drains directly into our Puget Sound. Every year, antifreeze, motor oil, cigarette butts, paint, plastic and yard wastes take this path into waterways, spoiling them for people to swim,

Need a project for your club, neighborhood group, or classroom?

Storm drain stenciling is the right project for everyone. We encourage citizens to participate in stenciling their neighborhood's drains.

Volunteers

We encourage different types of crowds to join volunteer groups. Great for school clubs, scout groups, community organizations and church groups interested in environmental activities. Many areas within the City limits have not been stenciled or need to be re-stenciled. All you need to do is to choose an area to stencil, perhaps, your own neighborhood.

Stenciling Kits?

Our kits contain all the basic stenciling supplies and safety equipment that you need (a stencil, a can of paint, gloves, orange safety vest, an orange safety flag, paper towels, and a garbage bag). The kit can be picked up at the Public Works' Building, please call for arrangement at 206-870-6869 and talk with Ruth.

Safety Guidelines

1. Volunteers will stencil only on streets in residential areas. Stenciling on arterials, highways, and other busy streets is prohibited due to hazardous traffic conditions.
2. Stenciling is allowed only in low traffic areas. Do not stencil an area where cars are parked close enough to the drain that it might cause paint to wipe off. Skip it and come back later.
3. Housing developments and apartment parking lots are private property and require proper permission before stenciling can be performed.
4. Pedestrian Safety Rules For All Volunteers
 - ❖ When stenciling storm drains along the side of the road, be aware of moving vehicles.
 - ❖ Use the same caution that you would use while walking to or from school, or otherwise using the road right-of-way.
 - ❖ Remember that drivers may not always see you; therefore, stay on curb instead of road.
 - ❖ Adults should provide close supervision especially for young people
 - ❖ If in doubt, use your first instinct and act safely first

contaminating groundwater and wildlife. By painting a “**DUMP NO WASTE, DRAINS TO STREAMS**” stencil message on storm drains in your community, you can alert the public that only rainwater belongs in storm drains.



For more information on Storm Drain Stenciling contact Ruth Famurewa [SWM / NPDES Coordinator at 206-870-6869](#) or email rfamurewa@desmoineswa.gov