

# Visit the Following Web Sites for More Details on Storm Drain Stenciling:

- **Volunteer Storm Drain Stenciling Project**  
[http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ESD/outreach.asp?nivel=foldmenu\(7\)#project](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ESD/outreach.asp?nivel=foldmenu(7)#project)
- **Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
<http://dnr.maryland.gov/education/are/stormdrain.asp>
- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Storm Drain Stenciling**  
<http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=406>
- **US EPA: Adopt Your Watershed**  
<http://water.epa.gov/action/adopt/index.cfm>
- **W.A.T.E.R: Watershed Activities To Encourage Restoration**  
<http://www.watershedactivities.com/projects/fall/sdstencl.html>
- **Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission: Storm Drain Stenciling — A Manuel for Communities**  
<http://repositories.tdl.org/tamug-ir/bitstream/handle/1969.3/27543/11002-Storm%20Drain%20Stenciling%20-%20A%20Manual%20for%20Communities.pdf?Sequence=1>
- **Greening Schools: School Projects — Storm Drain Stenciling**  
[http://www.greeningschools.org/resources/view\\_cat\\_teacher.cfm?id=206](http://www.greeningschools.org/resources/view_cat_teacher.cfm?id=206)

## Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources

Environmental Services Division  
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 610  
Largo, Maryland 20774

**PHONE:** (301) 883-5834  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov)  
[DERcares@co.pg.md.us](mailto:DERcares@co.pg.md.us)

**Water Pollution Line:** (301) 95-CLEAN

Photo Credit: DER



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

# Storm Drain Stenciling

## Make Your Mark to Protect Our Streams



**RUSHERN L. BAKER, III**  
County Executive

# Storm Drain Stenciling

## Make Your Mark to Protect Our Streams

### Our Underground Streams

Did you know that your neighborhood has a direct link to the Chesapeake Bay? The journey begins during a heavy rainstorm when rainwater is captured by storm drain inlets, channeling the water through a series of underground pipes to a nearby stream. When land is developed, we replace natural stream channels with concrete piping systems, essentially burying the stream beneath the street.

### What's the Big Deal? Aren't All Drains the Same?

Understanding the difference between a sanitary sewer drain and a storm drain is the key to understanding water pollution. If you live in a town, the drains that carry waste from inside your home are connected to a network of sewer lines that flow into a wastewater treatment plant. Here the waste is cleaned and filtered before it is discharged into a large body of water, usually a river.

On the other hand, outdoor drains, such as the drains found along roads, capture and transport rainwater directly to the nearest creek or stream with no treatment of any kind. Improperly stored materials or liquids carelessly dumped on the ground are swept up with rain and melting snow and become a source of water pollution. Now, you can begin to understand that the health of our waterways depends on us.

### Every Drop Counts

Get involved! A storm drain stenciling project is a great way to spread the word throughout your community to take action to prevent water pollution.

You and your neighbors can help prevent water pollution by stenciling the storm drains in your neighborhood with "Don't Dump — Chesapeake Bay

Drainage." Stenciling serves as a visual reminder to your neighbors that anything dumped in the storm drain contaminates the Bay.

You would never dream of swimming in water contaminated with toxins from antifreeze, used paint, motor oil, trash or waste. Yet, this is the very environment we are creating when we dump these toxins into the storm drain.



### Team Up Together

The County will help you design a storm drain stenciling project that can be accomplished with any size team or age group. You supply the volunteers, and the County will supply the rest. To begin planning your project, call the Department of Environmental

Resources (DER) at (301) 883-5822, or visit our web site at [www.princegeorgescounty.gov](http://www.princegeorgescounty.gov).

### Get Started — Think Ahead

Storm drain stenciling is a great activity for volunteer groups looking to make a difference in their community.

### Will children be involved?

Participation is encouraged from all age groups. Stenciling provides children with an opportunity to learn new techniques, such as spray painting, brush painting, measuring and using simple tools. So, plan for plenty of adults to lend a hand. Choose safe project locations with limited traffic.

### Where are the storm drain inlets located?

The County can assist you in determining if your project lies on public or private property. If your project is on private property, you must secure permission from the owner.

### What to do with extra supplies?

Please return all unused supplies and tools to DER so that everyone who wishes to volunteer has adequate supplies for their project.

### What if it rains?

Stenciling can only be done under sunny, warm and dry conditions. Plan a rain date in advance.

### Tell Your Story

Spread the word about your project! Contact your local newspaper, radio and television station to request that the media cover the event. Announce your project over the school's public address system, or write an informative article and post it throughout your community.