



## Pollution Solutions FACT SHEET 8

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## STORM DRAIN STENCILING



The Storm Drain Stenciling Program is a joint effort between the City and County of Honolulu and community volunteers, to help mitigate water pollution.

**Issue:** Making people aware on Earth Day, Make A Difference Day and every day that polluting in the street has serious consequences. Pollutants from sidewalks, curbs, gutters and streets enter storm drains that carry untreated runoff to streams, channels and ultimately to the ocean.

**Action:** Students and other volunteers, working with the City and County of Honolulu, are involved in successful service-learning storm drain stenciling projects.

Effective practices include:

1. Drainage map with catch basins. The City and County of Honolulu has provided you permission and a map of the storm drain system.
2. Release forms. The forms were distributed to the Adopt-A-Block site coordinate in advance. If you have not signed a release form, please see your Adopt-A-Block site coordinator.
3. Supplies: The City and County of Honolulu has provided you supplies.  
For each team of 3 to 5 students and one adult collect:
  - One bucket to carry supplies
  - Stencil with the message, “Dump No Waste, Protect Our Waters ... For Life”
  - White spray paint cans; 1 can for approximately 8 storm drains
    - a. Be careful about exposure to fumes; use the mask provided.
    - b. Skip the storm drain if a car is parked nearby.
    - c. Return all unused spray paint cans to your Adopt-A-Block site coordinator.
  - One safety vest per group, 1 pair of gloves and 1 mask
  - Wire brush, whisk broom, and a plastic trash bag

**Organize teams.** On the average, each team of 3 to 5 students and one adult can paint approximately 8-10 stencils an hour.

- Collect completed release forms
- Tell students/volunteers to wear old clothes that are white or other bright colors.
- Recruit one or two adults/high school students for each team.

**Environmental Concern Line 768-3300**  
**Help protect our waters ... for life!**



**Distribute fliers.**

Identify the watershed and sub-watershed (A sub-watershed is a distinct part of a watershed, such as the area draining to the ocean)

- Do reconnaissance of sub-watershed. Include photos in flier.
- Explain that runoff in storm drains flows to the ocean.
- List things people can do to prevent pollution from going into storm sewers.
- Identify your group or partners.
- Make/copy enough fliers for each house on the block where the group will be stenciling.

**Storm Drain Stenciling**

- Think safety first!
- Wear visible clothes and reflective vests.
- A responsible adult must watch for traffic and do nothing else.
- Cross streets with adult leader
- Skip the storm drain if a car is parked nearby.
- Orientation for stencil should face pedestrians
- Follow instructions on paint can.
- Painters should wear gloves and mask.
- Paint pavement, not dirt. Sweep area. Wire-brush area to be stenciled.
- Spray down wind of people.
- Use too little paint rather than too much.
- Lift stencil carefully to avoid smearing.
- Hand deliver flyers to a person; skip the house if no one is home

**Reflect and celebrate.**

- Record the sites of drains stenciled on the map provided and date completed.
- Calculate area of sub-watershed served by drains stenciled.
- Take photographs and send these to the City and County of Honolulu Storm Water Quality Branch with an accompanying student-written story.
- From area reconnaissance, decide what other group projects people can do; identify sidewalks, roads, or traffic problems that need attention and report to the City and County of Honolulu Environmental Concern Line at 768-3300.

Classroom education is enriched through dialogue with storm water experts, school-to-school networking, and online publication of creative work by students. These projects model inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning.

**Outcome**

As a result of the storm drain stenciling project:

- Communities are educated about the dangers of dumping pollutants into the streets and storm drains.
- Students are educated and empowered to do more to help clean up their communities.

For more information, contact Iwalani Sato at [isato@honolulu.gov](mailto:isato@honolulu.gov) or visit our website at [www.cleanwaterhonolulu.gov](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.gov).

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