





How to Stencil Storm Drains

1. GET PERMISSION



It is VERY IMPORTANT that you get permission from your city public works office to stencil storm drains (from business owners if you plan stencil in private parking lots). They can also help you decide where to stencil.

2. OBTAIN MATERIALS:






The Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District has the following Materials:

-  Storm drain stencils
-  Door hanger cards
-  Parent/ guardian permission slip templates
-  Traffic zone spray paint

The municipality should supply you with:

-  Authorization to stencil
-  Safety vests and cones

You should supply:

-  Wire brush and whisk broom to clean gutter before painting
-  Work gloves and safety goggles for kids
-  Garbage bags (1 for wet stencils & 1 for litter headed for the drain and the river)
-  Consider a large open box to shield against drifting overspray
-  Clean up rags



**DUMP NO WASTE
DRAINS TO RIVER**

3. NOTIFY THE MEDIA OF YOUR UPCOMING EVENT

This is a good opportunity to spread your message to an even greater area. The students or scouts will see their good work showcased. The soil and water district has a sample press release for your use.

4. GET THE WORD OUT

The door hangers will help to educate the public about watersheds the effects of pollution on the Fox River and its tributaries.

5. Keep a Record

Please return a completed Data Card to the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, 545 S. Randall R., St. Charles, IL 60174, fax: 630.584.9534. We would also appreciate copies of any photographs of stenciling trip.



ON STENCIL DAY

Try to choose a dry, sunny day. Pavement should be dry and warm. Avoid rainy day as stormwater will carry your paint down the drain. Avoid windy days as spray paint can drift onto nearby cars. Temperatures between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit ensure the best results.





1. Volunteers can be instructed to record the locations of all storm drains labeled during the project, so that the city can keep track.
2. Use wire brush and whisk broom to sweep dirt away from drain so paint will stay on pavement.
3. Position stencil next to (not over) the storm drain inlet where message will be most visible. Avoid areas where dirt and leaves will collect over the message.
4. Consider using a “trptych”, or large cardboard box cut open as a shield from drifting paint overspray (especially near cars).
5. Spray paint the message, taking care the paint doesn’t go down the drain. Two light coats are better than a thick single coat that puddles around the letters.

Stenciled messages last for approximately two years on a paved surface.

6. While some team members are stenciling, have others visit with local residents or businesses to hand out fact sheets or door hangers explaining where the storm drains go, plus local tips on how to prevent pollution their river, stream or groundwater.
7. Clean up. Place stencils in a plastic bag for transportation.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Since stenciling projects take place on city streets, volunteer safety is of utmost importance.

-  The city might wish to designate lower-traffic residential areas as targets for volunteer stenciling and should provide safety equipment.
-  Stenciling should be done in teams, with at least one person designated to watch for traffic.
-  Adult supervision is needed when volunteers are school children or members of youth groups.
-  You may be required to sign a waiver of liability