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DEPARTMENT OF  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

STORMWATER DIVISION  
(770) 278-7100  
FAX: (770) 785-6909 / (770) 785-6968

## Rockdale County Storm Drain Stenciling Program Volunteer Information and Safety Briefing

### I. Stormwater Pollution Education:

- a. What is stormwater runoff?
  - i. Stormwater runoff is the portion of rainwater that is unable to soak into the ground. Removal of natural vegetation and construction of buildings, pavement, sidewalks and other impervious surfaces increase stormwater runoff.
- b. Why is stormwater runoff a problem?
  - i. Stormwater runoff can pick up and carry away natural and man-made pollutants into nearby storm drain systems, lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and underground sources of drinking water.
- c. What is Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution?
  - i. Stormwater runoff containing pollutants as described above is considered Non-Point Source pollution because it comes from many different sources.
- d. What kind of pollutants can create NPS pollution?
  - i. Trash, dirt and litter
  - ii. Grass clippings and yard waste
  - iii. Excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides
  - iv. Oil, grease and toxic chemicals
  - v. Sediment from construction sites and eroding stream banks
  - vi. Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems
  - vii. Anything entering a storm drain that is not rain
- e. What can we do to help?
  - i. Never pour anything into storm drains, only rain should go down the drain
  - ii. Put litter and trash in its place
  - iii. Never blow leaves or grass clippings into the street, storm drains or ditches
  - iv. Keep yards free of litter and pet waste
  - v. Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
  - vi. Recycle used motor oil
  - vii. Maintain septic systems properly
  - viii. Properly dispose of all hazardous household waste
  - ix. For more information please contact the Stormwater Utility Division:



Rockdale County Department of Planning and Development  
Stormwater Utility Division  
P.O. Box 1495  
958 Milstead Avenue  
Conyers, Georgia 30012  
(770) 278-7142  
[www.rockdalecounty.org](http://www.rockdalecounty.org)

## II. Storm Drain Stenciling Program

- a. Rockdale County has implemented a storm drain stenciling program
- b. Volunteers use the stenciling kits provided by the County to attach markers/stencils to storm drains
- c. Rockdale County's goal is to mark all of the storm drains within the County
- d. What is a storm drain stencil?
  - i. Storm drain markers or stencils are a way of attaching a message to storm drain inlets or structures to remind residents not to pour or dump anything into the storm drains
  - ii. **Only rain should go down storm drains**
- e. Why do we want to do this?
  - i. The stencils will hopefully remind and educate all citizens that water quality and aquatic life are directly affected by pollutants entering storm drains
  - ii. The County needs your help to eliminate non-point source pollution
- f. Stenciling kits are supplied to all volunteers that include all the necessary supplies to attach the marker/stencils to the curb or pavement behind the storm drain. The kit includes:
  - i. Instructions
  - ii. Adhesive/glue to attach the markers to the storm drains
  - iii. Gloves
  - iv. Wire brushes (To clean drain surface)
  - v. Scrub brushes (To wipe away dust)
  - vi. Storm drain marker/stencils
  - vii. Stencil log sheet to record locations of storm drains stenciled/marked
  - viii. Sign-in sheet to record the participants
  - ix. Inventory maps with the locations of the storm drains to be stenciled/marked
  - x. Safety cones
  - xi. Safety vests





### III. Storm Drain Marker Application Instructions:

- a. Sweep the area to be cleaned
- b. Use the wire brush to remove paint, rust, dirt and other debris
- c. Use the scrub brush to sweep away any remaining loose debris
  - i. Note: It is very important that the application surface be clean, dry and free of any loose debris
- d. Apply adhesive as instructed on the back side of the marker
  - i. Refer to the instruction sheet for additional details
- e. Add extra adhesive in between lines shown on the marker if applying the marker to a rough or pitted surface for a better seal
- f. Press down on the marker with a twisting motion until the adhesive is visible along the outside edge of the marker
- g. Be sure the outside edge is firmly sealed
- h. The markers should be located at the center of the catch basin/storm drain approximately 1-2 inches from the edge of the road, or on the curb at the center of a drop inlet grate.
  - i. Do not attach the marker to the manhole lid, as these can be stolen or removed

### IV. Clean-Up:

- a. Dispose of gloves in a trash receptacle
- b. If adhesive comes in contact with skin, wipe off immediately and do not let it dry
  - i. Use soap and water to remove the adhesive from skin

### V. Safety:

- a. Be sure that children/minors involved in the stenciling program are adequately supervised by a responsible adult at all times
- b. All persons aiding in the stencil program should wear a reflective safety vest as applicable
- c. Only responsible adults should handle the adhesive/glue
- d. Review first aid procedures on the instruction sheet provided with all volunteers
- e. Adults will be responsible for all safety and traffic control
- f. Prior to beginning stenciling a storm drain, place an orange safety cone 6 feet before and after the storm drain work zone, and 2 feet from the edge of the curb
- g. One adult should stand between the two safety cones for traffic control
- h. All volunteers who are not actively involved in traffic control should remain on the sidewalk, out of the street and behind the storm drain
- i. Please remember that you are working around moving vehicles
  - i. Always keep safety in mind while participating in the stenciling event



## VI. Informational Door Hangers

- a. After a stenciling event has occurred, Stormwater Division personnel will go to each stencil location to confirm that the storm drain stenciling took place. At the same time of confirmation, an informational door hanger will be distributed by stormwater personnel to all homes within the area of the stenciling event. This door hanger will explain the storm drain stenciling program, what has occurred in their neighborhood and educate about non-point source pollution.

## VII. Stormwater Utility Credit

- a. After the stenciling event has been confirmed, a stormwater utility credit voucher will be given to each participant/volunteer. This voucher will qualify them for a 5% watershed stewardship credit for their stormwater utility bill. This credit only applies for the year that participation took place when submitted according to the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual.



## Examples of storm drains to be stenciled: (They are drains with openings)

### 1. Grate or Yard Inlet



### 2. Hooded Grate Inlets





### 3. Catch Basins

Single-Wing Catch Basin:



Double-Wing Catch Basin:



### 4. Raised Lid Inlet





## 5. Flume to Inlet





# Examples of storm structures NOT to be stenciled: (They are drains without openings)

## 1. Junction Boxes:

