



## Hiring Contractors and Protecting Water Quality.

YOU play a key role in reducing the pollution that flows into the City's waterways!!

Contractor operations can generate waste that affects water quality. Services like landscape care, carpet cleaning and painting can be sources of pollutants. Wastewater that drains from **inside** your building is treated and cleaned at a treatment facility before entering the waterways. But any flows from **outside** your building go untreated, directly to the nearest waterway such as Willow Creek or Cook Creek.

It is illegal to dispose of wash water from contractor activities to the storm drain system!!

## Some things to consider when hiring a service contractor.

### PAINTING SERVICES



#### ➤ Latex vs. oil paints

Find out what kind of paint the contractor uses. Latex paints are safer for the environment than oil-based paints and the least toxic alternative to protect water quality.

#### ➤ Equipment Cleaning

Check with the contractor on how and where they will clean their equipment. Latex paints can be cleaned with soap and water inside the building and may be disposed in the sanitary sewer when diluted, or use an equal mix of cat litter to solidify the paint, and dispose of it in the trash after it dries. Oil paints must be cleaned with hydrocarbons in a container. The cleaning fluid can be reused after solids settle, and solids can then be dried and disposed of in the trash.

### LANDSCAPING CARE SERVICES



#### ➤ Fertilizer Type

The chemical make up of your soil (alkaline or acidic) will determine the right type of fertilizer to use. Check with your landscape contractor. Quick-release fertilizers wash off more easily than organic, which puts water quality at risk. Organic, low phosphorous fertilizers are preferred in Colorado.

#### ➤ Application

Only apply according to manufacturer's recommendations. Don't over water or apply when heavy rains are forecasted – to keep the fertilizer in your landscaped area instead of in our waterways.

#### ➤ Pesticides

Limit their use, or use natural alternatives.

### CARPET CLEANING



#### ➤ Dirty water disposal

How and where should the dirty water be disposed? A sink, shower, tub, or toilet should be used so it goes to the sanitary sewer and **NEVER** the street or storm drain. The wastewater residue can be filtered, and disposed of in the trash after it dries.

#### ➤ Type of cleanser

Water-based cleaners are more environmentally friendly. Check to be sure that they are non-toxic and biodegradable.

## What YOU can do!!!

- Report suspected illegal dumping by contractors in your area.
- Buy products and services that do not harm our natural resources.
- Ask contractors pertinent questions before hiring them.
- Use and dispose of water-based latex paints and cleansers by solidifying them and placing them in the trash.
- Use organic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Share this information with other businesses in your area.



## Keep Your Eyes Open!!!

*RECOGNIZE* potential illegal discharges!!!!  
To report any illicit discharge of pollutants into storm drains and local drainage ways call the Public Works Stormwater Department at **(303) 662-8112**.

## For More Information!!!

Please visit the City web site at [www.cityoflonetree.com](http://www.cityoflonetree.com) for additional information on water quality in our community.

CITY OF LONE TREE  
Public Works Department  
9222 Teddy Lane  
Lone Tree, Co. 80124



CITY OF LONE TREE

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