

## Trade painters and building contractors

### Washing equipment:

If you are a commercial painter or building contractor you should use a paint wash water treatment system. You can purchase one from your local paint supplier or make your own (see over for details on the “two bucket system” which can be used for small operations).

*As a commercial painter you should **not** be washing down equipment directly into the sewer or onto land at the work site.*

### Recycling:

Collect your empty paint cans from all the jobs you do, and once a month use the recycling system offered by your local paint supplier.

Old or excess paint can also be recycled through your local paint supplier.

*Paint and paint buckets should **not** be disposed of into skips on site, or taken to landfills.*

### Building contractors:

If you are a building contractor, you should insist that your painter has a waste management policy that includes paint wash water treatment and recycling. Ensure that this treatment system is in use at the site.

**Remember: The polluter pays. If you are not prepared to protect the environment then you should not be in business.**



## Everything flows to the sea

- Outside stormwater drains and grates flow directly to waterways and the harbour without any treatment.
- All paint from brushes, rollers and paint cans washed on a sealed surface, or washed into stormwater drains, grates or downpipes will flow directly to streams and the harbour and cause damage to our environment.
- Wash paint equipment sensibly. Use the two bucket system or buy a paint wash water treatment system.
- Recycle – Don't send old paint or paint containers to landfill.
- Preventing Pollution is your responsibility. Our harbour is worth protecting. You can be fined for causing pollution and can incur all the costs of the clean up.

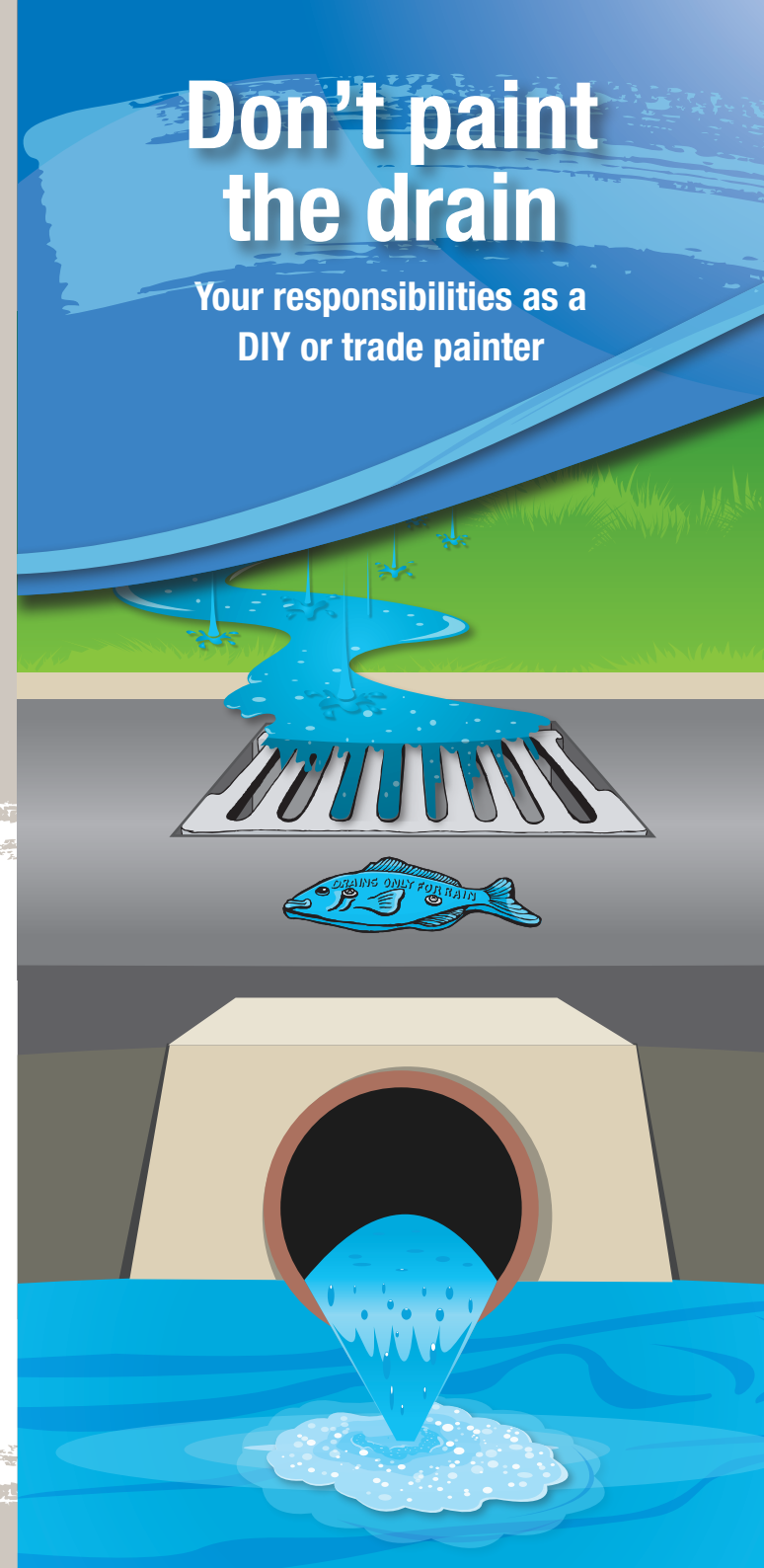
### Don't paint the drain

is supported by:



# Don't paint the drain

Your responsibilities as a  
DIY or trade painter



# DIY painters

## Two Bucket System - for paint washwater treatment (acrylic paint)

### Washing painting equipment:

Use the "two-bucket system". Small amounts can be washed into the laundry sink or onto the lawn or garden.

### Leftover paint:

Small amounts of waste paint can be left to dry by removing the lid in an area away from children or animals. When the paint is completely dry, the paint solids can then be disposed of in your general rubbish.

Don't tip paint or wash-water down stormwater drains (most outside drains) as this will cause pollution.

Don't tip paint down the household sink or toilet as this can cause serious problems within the wastewater network, and damage the treatment plant systems.

Any unwanted paint should be taken to your local paint supplier for recycling and you should re-use or recycle old paint containers.

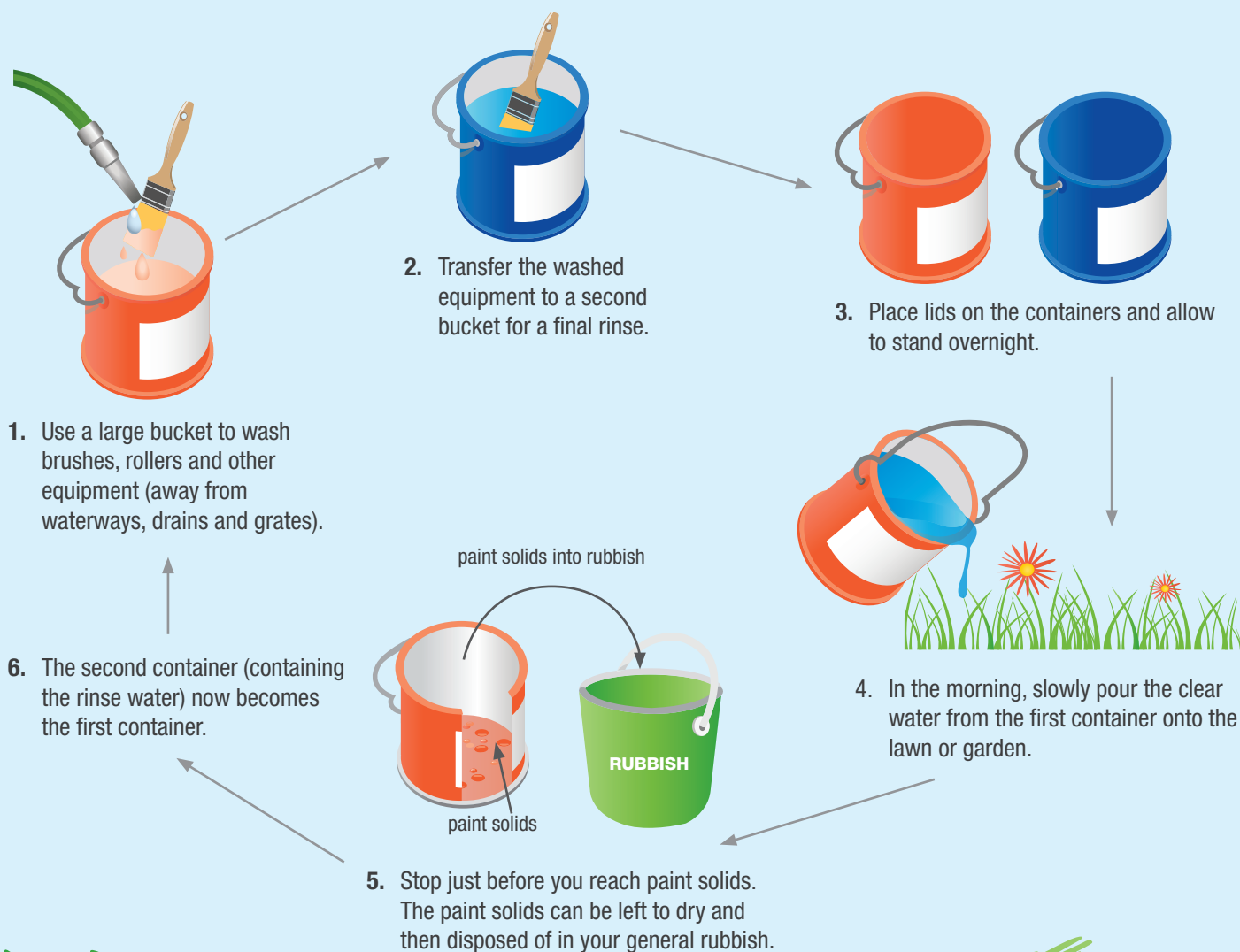
### Other tips:

Wrapping your paint brush in cling wrap will prevent the paint drying on the brush for at least an hour – ideal for lunch breaks. Similarly put your paint roller into a plastic bag and tape it around the handle.

To save you cleaning paint brushes and rollers whenever work is interrupted (overnight for example), put paint brushes and rollers in a container of water. A plastic pail with a tight-fitting lid is ideal when moving from one work area to another.

Thinners for enamel paints should be re-used or recycled.

**Never dispose of enamel paints or thinners to sewer or stormwater drains.**



Both water based (acrylic) and enamel paints will cause damage to waterways if released.

Paint can directly poison animals and plants and smother aquatic life. Paint prevents light from entering the water, making it difficult for animals to find food and for plants to get energy. Chemicals in paint can build up in plants and animals causing long-term effects which can also make them unsafe to eat.