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Water Watch



3 Things We're Doing to Keep Stormwater Clean

Since the inception of the Storm Sewer Utility, the City of Orem has been serious about improving the quality of stormwater. Here are some of the things we are doing

Street Sweeping

On nearly every good weather day, the City operates two street sweepers. These sweepers are able to pick up trash, dirt and



any other small items they encounter on the street.

This constant effort has paid off as every public street in the city has been swept 10 times during the year 2000.

You can help us in our efforts to keep our streets clean by sweeping out your gutter and raking your leaves.

A large portion of the debris that is picked up by the sweepers is made up of leaves. While street sweepers help, the most effective way to keep leaves out of the street is for each property owner to gather his or her leaves and dispose of them.

Public Education Efforts

During 2000, the storm sewer utility presented displays, models and lessons to school groups, festival goers and conference attendees.



Our displays were featured at Summerfest and the Utah County Fair. We also had them at the annual convention of the Utah League of Cities and

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The Provo River- A Valuable Resource

In our busy daily lives we may take many things for granted, water is one. The next time you drive up Provo Canyon, take a second look at the Provo River and think what it provides for our quality of life.

The Provo River begins in the High Uinta mountains. As it flows from the mountains, ultimately reaching Utah Lake, it serves as the life blood for Kamas, Heber and Utah valleys. On what once was a free flowing river, dams have been con-

structed. Small dams in the Uinta mountains were built around the turn of the century. Later, Deer Creek Dam was completed in 1941. More recently, Jordanelle Dam was built in the 1990's.

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If you wouldn't drink it,
don't dump it!

3 Things We're Doing to Keep Stormwater Clean continued

Towns as well as a meeting of the American Public Works Association.

2000 was also the first year that the storm sewer utility joined forces with the water section to teach elementary school students.

Storm Drain Curb Markers

The storm sewer utility is also marking storm drain inlets with curb markers that remind us not to dump anything in a storm drain. Things such as oil, antifreeze, paint or pesticides need to be handled with care. If they are improperly disposed of by dumping them into a storm drain, they could potentially contaminate our drinking water

Several local Eagle Scout candidates have assisted in this effort to mark storm drain inlets. If you would like to help mark the storm drains, call Rick Sabey at 229-7545.

Household Hazardous Waste Tip

Most paint has four components:

The **resin** is the main part of the paint which forms a film on the surface. It is typically a non-hazardous component like linseed, or acrylic.

Solvent keeps the paint a liquid until the solvent evaporates after painting. In oil-based paint, the solvent is derived from a petroleum distillate and can include hazardous ingredients like mineral spirits, toluene and xylene. The solvent in latex paint is water.

Pigments provide the color and covering power. The major pigments used presently are relatively nontoxic. Some highly colored pigments may contain heavy metals such as chromium, cadmium or arsenic. Older paints may contain lead.

Paint may also have **additives**. Some types of additives include stabilizers, dryers, thickeners, and preservatives. Some latex paints contain a mercury-based fungicide preservative.

Here are some tips for using paint. Avoid having leftover paint by buying only the amount you need for the job. Use up any leftover paint. If you cannot use it up, see if a friend or neighbor is willing to use it.

If paint is unusable, dispose of it properly. **Never** put liquid paint in the trash or pour it in a drain or storm drain. Small amounts of paint can be solidified. If you choose to solidify paint, be sure to do so in a well ventilated area. Make sure there are no possible

Provo River Continued

The reservoirs created by these dams, along with the Provo River provide many benefits for people living in Summit, Wasatch, Utah and Salt Lake counties.



Some of these benefits are flood control, water for irrigation, culinary water and recreation.

In Orem, the Provo River and its reservoirs provide 60% of our water directly, and indirectly, it helps to recharge the aquifer, the source of our deep wells. Many Orem residents and others spend countless hours on or by the river, enjoying some form of recreation.

So, on your next trip up Provo Canyon take another look at the river and remember the importance of protecting this "valuable resource," so that it may continue to serve future generations.

George Cepull

sources of spark or fire, and wear protective gloves.

To solidify small quantities, such as an inch or two in the bottom of a can, simply remove the lid, add non-flammable absorbent and stir until all the liquid is absorbed. When the paint is solidified, place the absorbent and paint cans inside a garbage bag, seal the bag tightly and dispose of it in the trash destined for the landfill.

Source: <http://www.muextension.missouri.edu/xplor/wasteman/wm6001.htm>

We're on the Web!
www.orem.org