

STORM DRAIN STENCIL PROGRAM



Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants—including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids—all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife. By stenciling storm drains on your private property with a pollution prevention message, we can remind San Diegans that pollutants like motor oil, soap, food wrappers, and cigarette butts should be properly disposed of instead of flowing through our storm drain system and into our waterways.

WHAT IS THE STENCIL PROGRAM?

Many residential areas and local businesses have privately-owned storm drain inlets and catch basins that discharge to the storm drain system. To be in compliance with San Diego Municipal Code, these must be marked with pollution prevention signage (e.g., “No Dumping – Goes to Ocean”). Think Blue San Diego loans out stencils to residents, property managers, and businesses to mark their storm drains free of charge (no reservations necessary). You can obtain a stencil for your community or business using the information below. Program participants must supply their own painting supplies (paint, brush, etc).

LOCATION: 9370 Chesapeake Dr Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92123

HOURS OF OPERATION: M-F 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Call 619-235-1000 to confirm stencil availability.
Stencils must be returned within 30 days.

Please Note: Concrete stamps, signs or plaques are also acceptable ways to label storm drains. While the City cannot officially recommend a vendor, an internet search for “storm drain markers” should provide options on purchasing these alternatives.





HOW TO APPLY A THINK BLUE POLLUTION PREVENTION STENCIL:

- ◆ **Locate Private Storm Drain Inlets:** Locate all private storm drains on the property.
- ◆ **Obtain Pollution Prevention Stencil:** Visit 9370 Chesapeake Dr, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123, to pick up the Think Blue Pollution Prevention Stencil.
- ◆ **Prepare Application Surface:** Select a clean, flat surface adjacent to the drain for stencil placement. Place the stencil on the surface to mark the area to be painted, then remove the stencil to begin painting.
- ◆ **Apply Paint:** Apply white paint to prepare the surface for the stencil message. When the white paint is dry, place the stencil back down and carefully fill in the lettering to display the pollution prevention message.
- ◆ **Allow to Dry:** Let the paint dry for several minutes before moving or touching the surface.
- ◆ **Return Stencil:** Within 30 days, return the stencil to the Think Blue San Diego office so that others can utilize this resource.



Scan the QR code for a brief tutorial on storm drain stenciling.

Thank you for protecting San Diego's creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean!
For more information, go to thinkblue.org.

