

**PHASE II MS4 STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROTOCOLS
MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURE:
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

STORM DRAIN STENCILING RESOURCES

The term “storm drain stenciling” is a general way to describe efforts to permanently leave a “No Dumping” message near storm drains within a community. These types of projects are useful in raising public awareness about the connection between storm drains and the health of local waters. The goal is to leave a permanent message near the storm drain that will both educate the public and provide them with an opportunity to get involved. Although stenciling messages using paint or ink is the traditional way to mark storm drains, there are a variety of options available to communities that will achieve the same goal. Selecting the right message and the right type of “stencil” can serve as the first opportunity in getting the public involved.

To aid Phase II MS4s in developing and implementing a storm drain stenciling program, DEP compiled this list of resources on the various types of storm drain stencils and where to obtain them. DEP has also included suggested wording for stenciling messages, although ultimately it is up to the MS4 to decide what message is most appropriate.

Storm Drain Stencils and Markers Manufacturers

Earthwater Stencils (www.earthwater-stencils.com)

This company manufactures plastic stencils that produce a 10” x 24” image with 2” lettering for application with paint. Have 14 pre-made designs with variations of the “No Dumping” message, allowing customers to choose a message for streams, rivers, lakes, oceans, bays, wetlands, creeks, groundwater, and drinking water supplies. Will create customized stencils for an additional fee. Priced according to quantity, with discounts for larger orders. Minimum order of 25 stencils start at \$15.50 per stencil. Shipping costs extra.

Phone: (360) 956-3774

Fax: (360) 956-7133

Email: info@earthwater-stencils.com

Das Manufacturing, Inc. (www.curbmarker.com)

This company produces high-impact plastic curbmarkers with U.V. resistant coatings. Requires adhesive for applying to clean, flat surfaces. Sells six standard designs (i.e., green and blue with white lettering and fish or frog graphic) and can create custom designs.

Phone: 1-800-549-6024

Fax: (813) 681-5807

Email: sales@curbmarker.com

ACP International (www.acpinternational.com)

This company produces six standard designs of 4” diameter curb markers, affixed using adhesive. Reverse printed so lettering will not scratch off and plastic is UV, moisture, and chemical resistant. Can create custom designs and shapes.

Phone: (817) 640-0992

Fax: (817) 633-3131

Email: Wayne@ACPInternational.com

Storm drain stencils are often available from the same manufacturers that create aluminum stencils used for painted traffic signs on roads.

Storm Drain Stencils and Markers Messages

The foundation of every storm drain stencil and marker message is “Do Not Dump, Drains to” and concludes with the name of the waterbody that receives the storm water discharge from the drain. This could be as generic as river, stream, creek, or bay, or the message could include the specific name of the receiving water. In addition to the message, most stencils and markers contain a graphic. The graphic may illustrate the connection of the drain to the water, or it may reflect an object of local concern, such as a fish or a frog. Communities with a population that speaks a language other than English often create stencils and markers in the other language to reach that population. It is important to know the characteristics of the people served by the MS4 to determine the appropriate message and graphics.

DEP realizes that messages and graphics will vary from MS4 to MS4, and therefore, will not prescribe the content of the storm drain stencils and markers. DEP strongly encourages MS4s to use a combination of text and graphics to convey the “Do Not Dump, Drains to” message.

Suggested messages include:

- No Dumping, Drains to River (creek, stream, bay, ocean, lake, wetland, etc.)
- Don’t Dump, Protect Our Water
- Do Not Dump, Flows to River (creek, stream, bay, ocean, lake, wetland, etc.)
- No Oil or Chemicals, Drains to River (creek, stream, bay, ocean, lake, wetland, etc.)

The storm drain stenciling guidance manual developed by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and provided to MS4s by DEP contains comprehensive information on planning and implementing a storm drain stenciling program. This manual also includes ideas for messages, graphics, and options for stenciling.