

City of San Diego – Storm Drain Stenciling Instructions

Thank you for your willingness to participate in the City of San Diego's Storm Drain Stenciling Program. The stenciling of storm drains is a very important visual cue to remind people to prevent downstream pollution by not dumping in local storm drains. Stenciling Kits are provided by Think Blue and I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD), free of charge, to encourage citizens to participate in water quality protection efforts.

Below are the steps to assist you in creating a legal and legible storm drain stencil. Please follow the directions carefully. If you have any questions, please contact ILACSD.

STEP 1: Borrow the Stenciling Kit

The Kit includes: One bucket; 2 colors of paint (white and blue); mixing sticks; paint brushes (1 large and 1 small); 1 cloth rag; gloves; 2 small plastic bags; chalk; 1 Think Blue stencil; 1 Tracking Sheet, and a pen.



Please contact ILACSD immediately at 619-291-0103, if any of the items are missing.

STEP 2: Stencil Placement

For storm drains in the curb: The stencil should be painted on the curb above the storm drain. Do not paint in the street or on the sidewalk. The stencil message should face out to the street so that it is readable from the road. If the curb is red, it is acceptable to paint directly over the red area. If a previous OLD or English language only stencil is at the location, it is encouraged that you paint directly over the outdated stencil.

For storm drains on the ground: The stencil should be painted where it is most easy to see and easy to read. The position should be at the bottom of the storm drain. If a previous OLD stencil is at the location, it is encouraged that you paint directly over the previous stencil.

* Please make notes regarding the location of each stencil placed (street name, number and/or cross street) and report to ILACSD.

STEP #3: Begin stenciling

*** Safety is very important. Please do not sit or stand in the street while completing this project. Please pay attention to traffic or other potentially dangerous issues. ***

🌐 Wipe the street curb (area to be painted) with wire brush. The area to be painted should be as clean as possible so the paint will adhere properly.

- 🌐 Mark the boundary of the area to be painted with chalk, using the stencil as a template. Remove stencil.
- 🌐 Open white paint only. Stir paint with mixing stick. USE PAINT SPARINGLY.
- 🌐 Using the large brush, paint inside the chalk boundary with the WHITE paint. Remember, *neatness* is very important.
- 🌐 When finished painting with the WHITE paint, wipe off any paint on the outside of the container and tightly replace the lid to the paint.
 - 🌐 Anytime you stop painting for more than a couple minutes, place the brush inside the plastic bag to keep the brush from becoming dry and/or stiff.
 - 🌐 If your storm drains are relatively close together, paint all the white backgrounds first and then return to paint the inside of the stencil so the paint has time to dry.

!!!! Very Important: Make sure the WHITE paint is dry before you place stencil on top of the white background and apply the blue paint.

- 🌐 Open the BLUE paint and stir with mixing stick. Use the small brush only. Use the blue paint to stencil the letters and the Think Blue logo.
- 🌐 Firmly hold down the stencil and DAB (don't brush) the letters and the figure. Be careful not to get paint underneath the stencil. The key to success is to USE AS LITTLE BLUE PAINT ON YOUR BRUSH AS POSSIBLE. Tightly replace the lid on the BLUE paint tub when finished painting.
- 🌐 When you are done with the BLUE, carefully lift up the stencil, holding it by each end. If it is badly smeared, let it dry and paint over it with white paint. Repaint the blue again.

STEP #4: Cleaning Up

- 🌐 When you are finished stenciling, check the paint tub lids to make sure that they are tightly closed and properly sealed. Place the brushes in the bags provided.
- 🌐 At a sink or over a landscaped area, clean and rinse the brushes and supplies. Fill in the locations of the stencils on the tracking sheet and make sure kit is complete and back to its original condition.



**Please return the kit promptly to I Love A Clean San Diego at
2508 Historic Decatur Rd, Ste 150, San Diego, CA 92106.**