

Landowner Fact Sheet

Stenciling Guide



Signs are Available Too

If you want to help educate your customers, employees and neighbors regarding restoration efforts in the Long Creek watershed, there are a few messages available on our website. These high-resolution files can be used to create educational signage for posting on your properties.

Here is one example:



Find More Fact Sheets
Online at:

www.restorelongcreek.org

Signage Options are
Available in Tab for:

“LANDOWNERS”

Why Stencil?

Most people are unaware that oil, chemicals, paints, mop water, and grass clippings dumped into catch basins and storm drains end up being carried directly to nearby streams. Storm drain stenciling is a simple way to alert our neighbors of the connection between storm drains and nearby waterways, like Long Creek.

Using stencils to mark the pavement around catch basins and other drainage infrastructure is an easy, effective way to remind us all that our actions could impact the environment.

This helps to minimize the

amount of dumping into the storm drains and reduce pollutants entering Long Creek.



A custom stencil has been developed for LCWMD Participating Landowners and Stakeholders to use on their properties. Please note that the City of South Portland and other public entities manage stenciling of their own catch basins as part of their public infrastructure. So the Long Creek stencils should be used only on private property. If you would like to borrow a stencil, contact us at (207) 892-4700.

Pointers for Stenciling

Here is some information you may find useful when coordinating your stenciling efforts!

1. **Written permission:** If you are a tenant or someone else owns the property where you will stencil, make sure that you get written permission from the landowner first. Keep copies with you in case anyone approaches you with questions.
2. **Location, location, location:** Stay on sidewalks and away from traffic as much as possible. Do NOT stencil in roadways or heavily trafficked sections of parking lots. Make sure that your stenciling is not interfering with activities at the site, such as deliveries or customer access
3. **Awareness:** There are many factors that should be considered when planning a successful stenciling effort.
 - Be cautious of the wind—it can transport paint to nearby cars and buildings.
 - Be aware of animals or people in vehicles near where you're working—paint can be very messy, so also avoid walking on grassed or landscaped areas.
 - Be aware and cautious of traffic—always use traffic cones and safety vests to provide extra visibility even in areas of low to medium vehicle traffic.
4. **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** In addition to traffic cones and safety vests, use nitrile gloves to prevent getting paint on your hands. Safety glasses will protect your eyes from paint spray.
5. **What to Wear:** In addition to PPE, wear sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting paint on and comfortable clothes that allow for bending, but nothing you're too attached to: they will get stained!



Stenciling Instructions

Checklist of Materials

- ◇ **Hard Plastic Stencil**
- ◇ **Marking Paint**
 - ◇ One aerosol can will produce ~8 stencils
 - ◇ White, bright yellow and bright green provide greatest visibility
- ◇ **Painter's Tape** to secure the stencil to the ground
- ◇ **Cardboard** for capturing overspray
- ◇ **Small Broom or Brush** to clean the area
- ◇ **Stencil Cleaning Tools**
 - ◇ Rags for wiping away excess paint
 - ◇ Putty knife for scraping excess paint from stencil
- ◇ **Safety Equipment**
 - ◇ Safety vests
 - ◇ Traffic cones
 - ◇ Gloves
 - ◇ Safety glasses
 - ◇ First aid kit
- ◇ **Trash Bags**

1. **Safety first:** Place traffic cones around the catch basin or storm drain before stenciling. Be sure to wear safety vests, glasses and gloves.
2. **Preparing the area:** Use a broom or brush to sweep and clean the area to be stenciled. This will help the paint adhere and keep the stencil clean. NEVER sweep debris and trash into the catch basin or drain! Place it into the trash bag.
3. **Placing the stencil:** Find the flattest area near the catch basin or storm drain, placing it so it can be easily read.
 - Tape the stencil down to make good contact with the pavement, if needed.
 - Use a long piece of cardboard placed at the edge of the stencil to capture overspray and prevent splatter from getting on your clothes or the road.
4. **Spraying the stencil:** Shake the can of spray paint according to instructions.
 - Hold the can perpendicular to the ground, not at an angle or the edges of the stencil will not be crisp.
 - Hold the spray paint approximately 8 inches away from stencil and lightly spray in a sweeping motion, minimizing spray beyond the edges of the stencil.
 - Avoid getting paint underneath the stencil—this would need to be cleaned off or could smudge the edges of the next stencil.
 - Remove stencil carefully to avoid smearing the wet paint.
 - ⇒ *If the message is difficult to read, too much paint may have been used.*
 - ⇒ *Do not try to fix it: just move to the next storm drain and use less paint. It's a learning process!*
4. **Cleaning up:** Wipe the stencil after every drain stenciled.
 - Use the putty knife to scrape paint out of the corners of the stencil after a few stencils.
 - Dispose of all garbage appropriately, including debris from sweeping, tape and rags from painting, and paint sludge scraped off the stencil.

Long Creek Watershed Management District

Managed by: Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District
35 Main Street, Suite 3, Windham, ME 04062
(207) 892-4700 | www.restorelongcreek.org