Catch Basin Marking Program

Welcome to the Catch Basin Marking Program!



Catch Basins, also referred to as storm drains, carry untreated water – and any pollutants – directly into streams, rivers, and oceans. By painting a yellow fish symbol next to a catch basin, we create a visual reminder that what goes down the drain affects our local water and wildlife.

Only Rain Should Go Down the Drain!

In partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and adapted from their Storm Drain Marking Program, the City's Catch Basin Marking Program offers residents, businesses, and community groups the opportunity to help protect our local waterways!

This guide explains what's included in your kit and how to safely paint yellow fish.

Safety Guidelines



Be Visible: Always wear a high-visibility vest and bright clothing. Ensure vest is properly fastened.

Mind Your Surroundings: Stay on sidewalks or boulevards. Never step into traffic. Be extra cautious of traffic from all directions when marking catch basins on corners.



Traffic Awareness: Place traffic cones 1.5 meters from the catch basin. Keep an eye on traffic; if a car approaches, wait on the sidewalk until it's safe to proceed. Never paint with your back to traffic.

Supervise Children: Always supervise children present in the work area.



Daylight Hours & Property: Only mark during daylight hours. Mark only city roadways; obtain approval before marking on strata or private property. Choose residential or low-traffic areas where you can be safely visible.

Report Hazardous Materials

Do not attempt to move or pick up hazardous materials like needles, broken glass or deceased wildlife. Report to 604-526-4691 or engops@newwestcity.ca.

New Westminster

511 Royal Avenue
New Westminster BC
V3L 1H9

604 527 4592
waterconservation@newwestcity.ca
newwestcity.ca

How to Mark a Catch Basin

All participants must submit a signed Liability Release Form beforehand.

1. Choose Your Day Wisely

Pick a day with no rain and when roads are dry. Only mark during daylight hours.

2. Clear the Area

Place traffic cones 1.5 m from the catch basin. Use brush to sweep away debris. Pick up trash and use garbage bag provided. Wear gloves and watch out for hazards like sharp objects.

3. Position the Stencil

Stand on the catch basin facing the road. Place stencil on the road about 15 cm from the catch basin, ensuring the fish is upright when viewed from the sidewalk. Refer to the diagram for correct placement.

4. Apply the Paint (Be Careful, Avoid Spills!)



Squeeze paint onto the stencil 1 cm from the edge of the cut-out. Add more paint in the middle of the stencil if needed. Brush paint inward until the outline is completely and evenly covered. Use two thin coats rather than one thick coat. Gently remove the stencil to prevent smudging. Paint should dry within 10-15 minutes. Clean bottom of stencil before moving to next catch basin.

5. Clean Up

Leave work areas clean and tidy, taking everything you brought with you. When finished all markings, clean brushes and stencils with water in a household sink. Once dry, place all materials back into the bucket.

6. Deliver Door Hangers

Deliver the door hangers to nearby houses. Please do not knock on doors, simply hang the information sheet on the door handle.

Use the submission link sent to your email to share your photos!

Kit Materials

Bucket	Hand Broom	Instructions	Tape
3 Paint Brushes	2 Adult Hi-Vis Vests	2 Traffic Cones	Garbage Grabber
Paint	2 Child High-Vis Vests	Door Hangers	Garbage Bag
Fish Stencil	Nitrile Gloves	Paper Towel	Small Reusable Bag

New Westminster

511 Royal Avenue
New Westminster BC
V3L 1H9

604 527 4592
waterconservation@newwestcity.ca
newwestcity.ca