

## Holi Powder Paint (type products)

<b>EMS DOCUMENT TYPE:</b>	Operational Control Document
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT:</b>	Discharges to Water
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To raise awareness of the controls necessary to protect campus drains from this type of paint product.

### Introduction:

Holi Powder products are traditionally used for colour festivals, paint parties and colour fun runs all over the country and world. These products are not a true powder paint as such but when mixed with water have a similar effect. These products are generally made from corn starch and often promoted as being non-hazardous, non-toxic, biodegradable or even environmentally friendly. Example Safety Data Sheets examined for these products however do not necessarily substantiate this.

### Surface Water Drains:

External drains on campus are generally surface water drains and these lead to brooks and streams which ultimately feed into the River Trent. Because these drains lead to water courses we have a duty to ensure that nothing enters these drains which may, in any way, impact on the environment. There are many products which, whilst non harmful to humans, are harmful to the environment. For this reason the University operates a policy of only rain water down the surface water drains. This applies to all external drains whether marked with a blue tag or not.

### Environment Agency Guidance:

The Environment Agency local officers have been consulted on this matter and have confirmed that every effort should be made to prevent these products getting into the water courses. A coloured discharge into a water course, if reported by a member of the public, has to be investigated by the Environment Agency and if this was as a result of these products then it would be deemed an un-consented discharge and those responsible required to pay any costs.

### Control Measures:

It is proposed that events using these products can take place on campus providing that appropriate measures are put in place. These are proposed as follows, some of which relate to protection of the environment, some to health & safety and some to common sense and courtesy:

1. All events should be carefully planned and consultation should occur in advance with:
  - a. The Deputy Health & Safety Manager [h.c.weaver@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:h.c.weaver@lboro.ac.uk)
  - b. The Environmental Manager [n.o.hunt@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:n.o.hunt@lboro.ac.uk)
  - c. Security [Securityservicemanagers@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:Securityservicemanagers@lboro.ac.uk)
  - d. The Head of Grounds and Gardens [m.a.freeman@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.freeman@lboro.ac.uk)
2. **The Deputy Health & Safety Manager may refer the event for approval by either the COO or Deputy COO if it is felt that the event requires Senior Management approval.**
3. Event specific Risk Assessments, Method Statements (how the paint is going to be used) and COSHH assessments should be prepared and provided to The Deputy Health & Safety Manager.

4. It may be necessary for all participants to sign a medical declaration Form in order to participate in these events. The same form can be used to obtain a waiver for damage to personal belongings. An example of such a form is available from the Students Union rag office but consideration should be given as to what the organiser would do if the participant declared themselves to have one or more of the conditions in the health Questionnaire.
5. A plan / route map of where the event is taking place and the product is being used should be produced taking into consideration that:
  - a. The ideal usage area will be a grassed area where rain will wash the powder into the ground where it can naturally dissipate. However these grass areas are:
    - i. Not to be any of the marked pitches
    - ii. Not to be where they pose a risk of paint being trodden into buildings.  
The attached plan gives indicative locations but approval will be required.
  - b. If the product is used on any hard surface areas then surface water drains are to be sealed\* before the event and the hard surface must then be thoroughly cleaned after the event. This would normally be by a road sweeper and the event is to cover any costs (although University Facilities Management can arrange for this through its normal contractor). The likely cost should initially be budgeted as £300.
6. Any hall events are to be approved by the Warden and Hall Manager
7. Any events taking place on Unite or UPP property must have the approval of the Management of those properties.
8. All events must clean up after themselves in a timely fashion.

\*Drain sealing mats can be made available from the Environmental Manager / Facilities Management / Security. Sand may also be used as a filter. Please contact the Environmental Manager in advance of the event to arrange this. Consideration will be given to the weather forecast and event location and appropriate guidance given.

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