

Why should we be concerned with wash water disposal?

Wash water from mobile cleaning is NOT just dirt and water. It also may contain pollutants such as soaps, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, oil and grease that are harmful to our creeks and waterways.

These are washed onto the street and into the storm drain system, which then flows to our creeks without any cleaning or filtering.

Federal, State and local regulations **prohibit discharge of anything but rain water in the storm drain.**

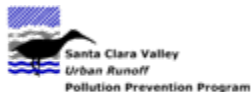
Implementing the proper Best Management Practices (BMPs) is required for compliance with State and local stormwater pollution prevention regulations

What about biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products?

Cleaning products labeled “nontoxic” and “biodegradable” can still harm wildlife if they

enter a storm drain system. Fish, for example, are affected by **both** regular soap and biodegradable soap! However,

if disposed of in the sanitary sewer system, wastewater treatment plants prefer biodegradable products over toxic cleaners.



Content adapted from Santa Clara Valley publication with permission.

Before You Clean

- ❑ Determine where you will discharge wastewater before starting a new job.
- ❑ Be sure to have equipment on hand (i.e. long hoses, sump pump, etc) for directing discharge to sanitary sewer access points. Ensure hoses are long enough to reach access points that are far from your holding tank.



Contact your local hardware or construction material stores for available tools and materials for mobile businesses including vacuum pumps, mats, sand or gravel bags, wattles, etc.

Options for Wash Water Disposal

Never drain wash water into streets, gutters, parking lots, or storm drains.

- ❑ Wash water can usually be discharged to the sanitary sewer through a drain in the property owner's home or business, such as a utility sink, floor drain, mop sink or toilet. Take precautions to prevent debris, hazardous materials or anything that can clog from entering sinks, toilets or sanitary drain.
- ❑ Direct wash water to landscaping or gravel surfaces. Wash water must completely soak into vegetation before you leave the site.



Discharge to utility sink



Discharge to toilet



Discharge to cleanout

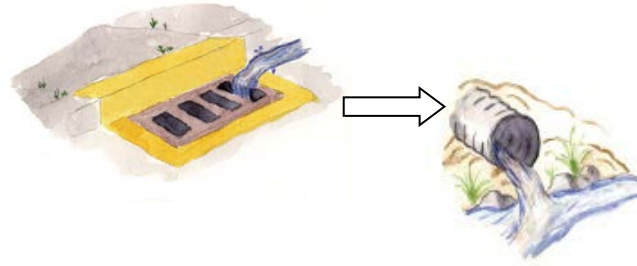
Doing the Job Right Checklist of BMPs

- Walk the area to identify storm drains.
- Put storm drain protection in place before starting the washing process and remove before you leave the site.
- Sweep the wash area to remove debris.
- If you can, wash on a vegetated or gravel surface where wash water can infiltrate into the ground without runoff.
- Contain wash area so that water does not drain down streets and gutters – use sand bag berms, wattles, or mats with berms
- Vacuum or shake floor mats into a trash can.
- Minimize water use; use nozzles on hoses.
- Use less-toxic cleaning products (wash without soaps and solvents, if possible)
- Use a “wet-vac” to vacuum up the contained wash water for proper disposal.
- Remove all debris or sediment accumulated during the washing activities.



Protect the Sound and Yourself!

When wash water flows into storm drains it goes straight to local creeks and lakes, and eventually Puget Sound, without any cleaning or filtering.



If you discharge wash water to the storm drain, **you are violating Mountlake Terrace city code and may be subject to a fine.**



For more information, contact:
Laura Reed, Stormwater Program Manager
City of Mountlake Terrace
(425) 744-6226, lreed@ci.mlt.wa.us

MOBILE CLEANING

Best Management Practices



Information about using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent polluted water from entering storm drain system

Who should use this brochure?

- Carpet Cleaners
- Pressure/Power Washers
- Automobile Washers or Detailers
- Steam Cleaners
- Pet Care Services

