

Information about using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent wash and rinse waters from entering storm drain systems and polluting local waterways, the San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean.

WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED WITH WASH WATER DISPOSAL?

Wash water from mobile cleaning is NOT just dirt and water. It also may contain soaps, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, oil, and/or grease that are harmful to our creeks and waterways. Pollutants draining from mobile cleaning activities are washed into the street and into the storm drain system which then flows to our creeks, Bay, and Ocean 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 easy and is required for compliance with stormwater pollution prevention regulations.

WHAT ABOUT BIODEGRADABLE & NON-TOXIC CLEANING PRODUCTS?

Cleaning products labeled “non-toxic” and “biodegradable” can still harm wildlife if they enter a storm drain system. Fish, for example, are affected by both regular and biodegradable soap! However, if disposed of in the sanitary sewer system, wastewater treatment plants prefer biodegradable products over toxic cleaners.

All soaps—even biodegradable ones—are harmful to fish!

PLAN AHEAD

- 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 wet/dry vacuums and sump pumps, mats, sand or gravel bags, wattles, etc.

4 STEPS TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU CLEAN

1. Be a BASMAA Recognized Mobile Cleaner

Take the online “mobile surface cleaning” training from BASMAA (Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association). This program will train you on how to clean different surfaces in an environmentally acceptable way and publish your name as a trained cleaner. Visit www.basmaa.org.

2. Identify Storm Drain Locations

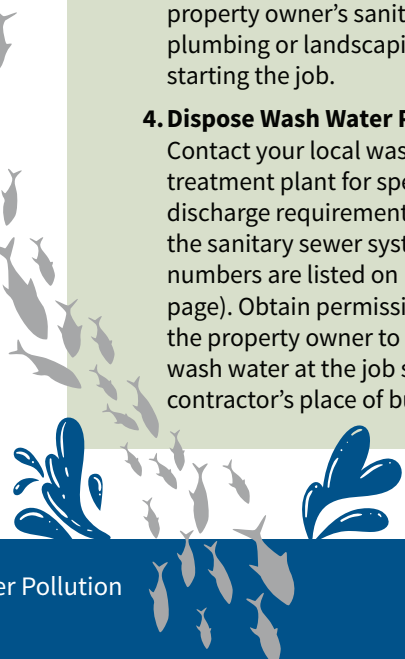
Walk around the job site and identify where all storm drains are located. Wash water must not be allowed to flow into the storm drains.

3. Protect Drains and Collect Water

Contact your local City stormwater inspector to determine specific discharge requirements. Obtain permission to discharge to the property owner’s sanitary sewer plumbing or landscaping before starting the job.

4. Dispose Wash Water Properly

Contact your local wastewater treatment plant for specific discharge requirements entering the sanitary sewer system (phone numbers are listed on next page). Obtain permission from the property owner to discharge wash water at the job site or the contractor’s place of business.



Protect the Bay, the Ocean, and Yourself! When wash water flows into storm drains it goes straight to local creeks and the San Francisco Bay or Pacific Ocean without any cleaning or filtering.

DOING THE JOB RIGHT: CHECKLIST OF BMPS

- Walk the area to identify storm drains.
- Sweep the wash area to remove debris.
- If feasible, 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 bags, plugs, containment mats or berms.
- Block or seal off any storm drain inlets and sloping areas that release water to the gutter to prevent wash water from entering the storm drain.
- Put storm drain protection in place before starting the washing process and remove before you leave the site.
- Vacuum or shake floor mats into a trash can.
- Minimize water use; use nozzles on hoses.
- Use less-toxic cleaning products (or 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 washing activities and put in the trash, or if it is hazardous, dispose of it properly.



OPTIONS FOR DISPOSAL

- 1. Never drain wash or rinse water into streets, gutters, parking lots, or storm drains.**
2. Wash and rinse waters can usually be discharged to the sanitary sewer through a drain at the property owner’s home or business, such as a utility sink, floor drain, mop sink, cleanout or toilet. Take precautions to prevent debris, hazardous materials or anything that can clog from entering sinks, toilets or sanitary drains.
3. Direct water to landscaping or gravel surfaces. Wash water must completely soak into vegetation before you leave the site.



IF YOU DISCHARGE WASH WATER GENERATED BY MOBILE CLEANING ACTIVITIES TO THE STORM DRAIN, YOU ARE VIOLATING MUNICIPAL STORMWATER ORDINANCES AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FINE.

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Burlingame Waste Water Treatment Facility	(650) 342-3727
<i>Burlingame, Burlingame Hills, and Hillsborough</i>	
Millbrae Water Pollution Control Plant	(650) 259-2388
North San Mateo County Sanitation District	(650) 991-8200
<i>Daly City and parts of Westborough</i>	
Pacifica’s Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant	(650) 738-4660
San Mateo Waste Water Treatment Plant	(650) 522-7300
<i>Foster City, Hillsborough, and San Mateo</i>	
Sewer Authority Mid Coastside Wastewater Treatment Facility	(650) 726-0124
<i>Half Moon Bay, El Granada, Miramar, Moss Beach, Montara, Princeton by the Sea</i>	
Silicon Valley Clean Water	(650) 832-6243
<i>Belmont, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside, and service area of West Bay Sanitation District</i>	
South San Francisco/San Bruno Water Quality Control Plant	(650) 877-8555
<i>Colma, San Bruno, South San Francisco, and southern Daly City</i>	