

## 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 and 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.



## 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.*

## Options for Disposal

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

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Direct water to landscaping or gravel surfaces. Wash water must completely soak into vegetation before you leave the site.

## 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.



## Three Steps to Remember Before You Clean

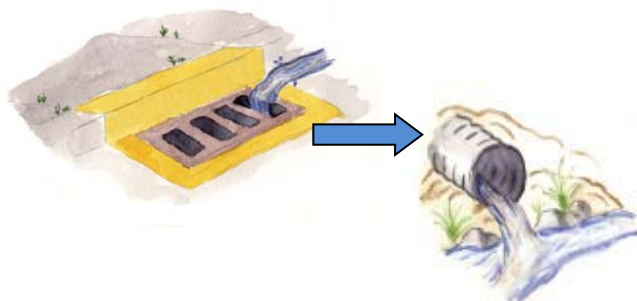
1. **Be a BASMAA Recognized Mobile Cleaner**  
Take the online "mobile surface cleaning" training from BASMAA (Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association). This program will train you on how to clean different surfaces in an environmentally acceptable way and publish your name as a trained cleaner. Visit [www.basmaa.org](http://www.basmaa.org).
2. **Ask Your Local Inspector**  
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.
3. **Divert and Collect Wash Water**  
Cover the storm drains to prevent wash water from entering and divert wash water to the sanitary sewer system if permitted to do so. Small amounts may be diverted to landscaped areas, if appropriate.

## Local Pollution Control Agencies

Burlingame Waste Water Treatment Facility .....	(650) 342-3727
Millbrae Water Pollution Control Plant .....	(650) 259-2388
North San Mateo County Sanitation District Wastewater Treatment Plant .....	(650) 991-8200
Pacifica's Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant .....	(650) 738-4660
San Mateo Waste Water Treatment Plant .....	(650) 522-7300
Sewer Authority Mid Coastside Wastewater Treatment Facility .....	(650) 726-0124
Silicon Valley Clean Water .....	(650) 594-8411 ext. 140
South San Francisco/San Bruno Water Quality Control Plant .....	(650) 877-8555
Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant .....	(650) 329-2598
San Francisco's Southeast Treatment Plant .....	(415) 648-6882
West Bay Sanitary District .....	(650) 321-0384

## Protect the Bay, the Ocean, and Yourself!

When wash water flows into storm drains it goes straight to local creeks and the Bay or Ocean without any cleaning or filtering.



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.**

For More Information About Stormwater  
Pollution Prevention

**City of San Mateo**  
California

Contact the City's Stormwater Program Coordinator  
at 650-522-7296, or Inspector at 650-522-7342.



The San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program for developing and sharing the content and artwork of this brochure.

*Best Management Practices  
for*

# MOBILE BUSINESSES

Carpet Cleaners  
Vehicle Washers or Detailers  
Power Washers  
Pet Care Services  
Steam Cleaners



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