



Preventing Storm Drain Pollution

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Mobile Cleaners

Automobile Washers | Detailers | Power Washers | Carpet Cleaners | Steam Cleaners | Pet Care Services

Storm Drains and the San Francisco Bay

Wash water from mobile cleaning is NOT just dirt and water. It also contains soaps, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, oil, and grease that are harmful to our creeks and waterways. When pollutants draining from mobile cleaning activities (e.g. wash waters, steam cleaning fluid, automobile chemicals, etc.) are dumped into the street and storm drain inlets, they flow through the storm drain system to local waterways and the San Francisco Bay (Bay) without any cleaning or filtering. These pollutants can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people.

Help protect the Bay and local creeks by following these Best Management Practices (BMPs).



Only rain down the storm drain.

Steps to Remember Before You Clean

- **Be a BASMAA Mobile Cleaner**

Take the free 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.

- **Contact Local Programs**

Contact the local stormwater program to determine specific discharge requirements. Get permission to discharge to the property owner’s sanitary sewer plumbing or landscaping before starting the job.

- **Divert and Collect Wash Water**

Cover the storm drains (e.g. with tarp, sandbags, drain mat, etc.) to prevent wash water from entering. Divert wash water to the sanitary sewer or landscaping if permitted to do so.

Never empty wash water to storm drains. Federal, State, and local regulations prohibit any discharges other than rain in the storm drain.



Plan Ahead

- Determine where you will discharge wash water before starting a job.
- Be sure to have equipment for directing discharge to sanitary sewer access points (i.e. long hoses, sump pump, drain plug, drain mat, sandbags etc.). Ensure hoses are long enough to reach access points 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.

What about non-toxic and biodegradable soaps?

Cleaning products labeled “non-toxic” and “biodegradable” can still harm fish and wildlife if they enter a storm drain. However, if discarded into the sanitary sewer, then wastewater treatment plants prefer biodegradable soaps.

Options for Wash Water Disposal

- Wash water can usually be discharged to the sanitary sewer through a drain in the property owner’s home or business (e.g. a utility sink, floor drain, mop sink, toilet, or sewer cleanout). Keep debris, hazardous materials and anything that can clog away from sanitary drains.
- If appropriate and feasible, wash on a vegetated or gravel surface where wash water can infiltrate into the ground without runoff.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Mobile Cleaners

Doing the Job Right:

Checklist of Best Management Practices (BMPs)

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

1. BEFORE YOU WASH

- Identify storm drains nearby.
- Protect storm drains from wash water by sealing off storm drain inlets, and then block off sloped areas that direct water to the storm gutter.
- If applicable, sweep the wash area to remove debris.
- Clean small items like floor mats by shaking into a trash can or vacuuming. If mopping/washing is needed, then plan to contain any wash water.

2. WHILE YOU WASH

- Contain wash area so that water does not drain down streets and gutters – use sandbag berms, wattles, or bermed mats.
- Minimize water use; use shut-off nozzles on hoses.
- Use less-toxic cleaning products (wash without soaps/solvents, if possible).

3. AFTER YOU WASH

- Use a sump pump or “wet-vac” to vacuum up wash water for proper disposal.
- Remove all debris or sediment accumulated during the washing activities.
- Remove storm drain protection BMPs before you leave the site.



Protect the storm drain.



Contain the wash area.



Collect all wash water.

Stormwater Pollution Control Agencies

For more information on stormwater pollution control, contact your local agency.

Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga (West Valley Communities) (408) 354-5385	Mountain View(650) 903-6378
Cupertino(408)777-3354	Palo Alto(650) 329-2122
Los Altos(650) 947-2770	San José(408) 945-3000
Los Altos Hills(650) 941-7222	Santa Clara(408) 615-3080
Milpitas(408)586-3365	Santa Clara Unincorporated County(408) 918-4609
	Sunnyvale (408) 730-7260

Wastewater Agencies

All discharges to the sanitary sewer must meet local discharge limits.

Contact your local wastewater agency to find out if pretreatment requirements apply to your business

San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility	(408) 945-3000
<i>Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga</i>	
Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant.....	(408) 730-7270
<i>Serving Sunnyvale</i>	
Regional Water Quality Control Plant	(650) 329-2598
<i>Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford</i>	

For more information about Stormwater Pollution Prevention

1-866-WATERSHED

www.MyWatershedWatch.org



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