

For More Information

This brochure is intended to explain the water quality issues regarding the discharge of car wash water from mobile car washes and the guidelines to be followed when conducting this type of activity. Runoff from mobile car washing if not properly managed can negatively impact the aquatic environment and degrade local waterways. When conducting mobile car washing follow these guidelines in order to prevent the wash water from entering the storm drains where it flows untreated to the ocean.

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works

www.**888CleanLA**.com

To Report Illegal Dumping into the
County's Storm Drain System,
Call:

1(888)CLEAN LA

24 Hours per Day

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Los Angeles County Stormwater Program.



Water quality guidelines for mobile car washing



P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

Tips for Mobile Car Washing

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 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 and waterways 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 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.

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 discharges to sanitary sewer access points. Ensure hoses are long enough to reach access points that are far from your holding tank.

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 at 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.

Doing the Job Right Checklist of BMP's

- 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 sandbag berms, wattles or bermed mats.
- Block or seal off any storm drain inlets and sloping areas that release water to the storm 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 trashcan.
- 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.



For additional Information

For more information about pollution protection or additional brochures
PLEASE CALL:

City of Glendora
(626) 914-8246



Never let any chemical products or polluted wash water drain into the streets, gutters, parking lots or storm drain.