

CAR & BOAT WASHING



Washing a car or boat over hard surfaces can contribute to ocean pollution. Pollutants – such as oil, grease, metals, soap, sediment, engine fluids, etc. – can end up in the wash water as you clean your vehicle and be carried into the storm drain system, which then flows untreated into local waterways. Water associated with washing of residential vehicles must be controlled to minimize entrance into the City’s storm drain system. All commercial vehicles must be washed without creating runoff.

Control, Contain, Capture & Dispose

When washing your vehicle with water, you **MUST** have a plan to control, contain, capture and dispose of the water you use to prevent it from entering the storm drain system, which includes nearby curb gutters, streets, alleys or storm drains.

Control: Use methods or tools that allow you to better manage your wash area, such as using a control nozzle on a hose or using a bucket and sponge to reduce the amount of water and detergent you use. Pull your car up onto your lawn to allow water to be absorbed into the soil and not run off into the street.

Contain: Prevent wash water and debris from leaving your property. Divert water to a landscaped or pervious area using rolled up towels, berms or a broom so water can evaporate or soak into the soil without creating runoff.

Capture & Dispose: Capture all excess wash water using a mop, wet vacuum, vacuum boom or absorbents. Wash water can be drained onto landscaped areas or collected and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system, such as an onsite sink or toilet.



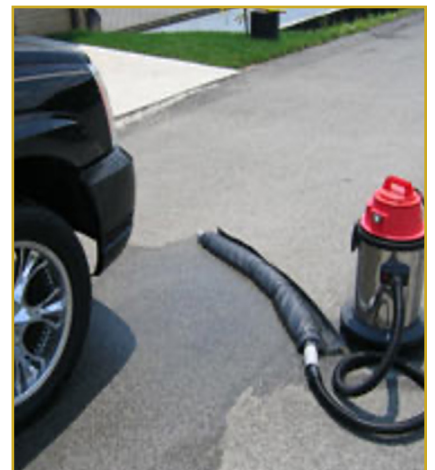
STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to allow uncontrolled wash water from vehicle washing into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0305(e)(2)). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Other Considerations

Contaminated urban runoff can be eliminated when proper methods are used to wash vehicles. When possible, use a properly maintained commercial car wash as they are better equipped to handle and dispose of wash water.

- ◆ Do not let wash water leave the area.
- ◆ Determine where wash water will drain and how you will capture and collect it before it reaches the storm drain system (curb, street, alley or storm drain). Block drains in wash areas to avoid discharge.
- ◆ Sweep up all sediment and debris in the area prior to washing.
- ◆ Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents for cleaning.
- ◆ To minimize the amount of water used to clean, use a hose with a control nozzle that automatically turns off when unattended or use a wash bucket.
- ◆ Wash vehicles on a lawn or over a landscaped area provided that the wash water can be absorbed by the soil without runoff.
- ◆ If you cannot wash on a landscaped area, direct the water to a landscaped area by pushing it with a broom or by using a temporary berm, such as a containment boom, spill berm, sandbags or other blocking device.
- ◆ If you cannot direct wash water to a landscaped area, you should contain, capture and dispose of the wash water to prevent runoff.
- ◆ Do not leave standing water on paved surfaces for evaporation.
- ◆ All excess wash water must be captured using a mop, vacuum boom or wet vacuum and drained into a landscaped area or disposed of into the sanitary sewer system (such as an onsite sink or toilet).
- ◆ Sweep up any visible solids and sediments remaining after all the wash water has been collected.
- ◆ To dispose of wash water containing oil, paint or other hazardous wastes, drop it off by appointment at the Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility located at the Miramar Landfill entrance. To schedule an appointment, call (858) 694-7000.



Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants – including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids – all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

