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.

For More Information About Stormwater Pollution Prevention email info@flowsstobay.org

Updated April 2019
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.

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Burlingame Waste Water Treatment Facility ......................... (650) 342-3727
  Burlingame, Burlingame Hills, and Hillsborough

Millbrae Water Pollution Control Plant .............................. (650) 259-2388

North San Mateo County Sanitation District .......................... (650) 991-8200
  Daly City and parts of Westborough

Pacifica’s Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant .................... (650) 738-4660

San Mateo Waste Water Treatment Plant ............................ (650) 522-7300
  Foster City, Hillsborough, and San Mateo

Sewer Authority Mid Coastside Wastewater Treatment Facility .... (650) 726-0124
  Half Moon Bay, El Granada, Miramar, Moss Beach, Montara, Princeton by the Sea

Silicon Valley Clean Water ............................................. (650) 832-6243
  Belmont, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside, and service area of West Bay Sanitation District

South San Francisco/San Bruno Water Quality Control Plant .... (650) 877-8555
  Colma, San Bruno, South San Francisco, and southern Daly City

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.