

August 2002



City of Livermore
Water Resource Division
101 W. Jack London Blvd.

Mobile Cleaners

Transportation-Related Washing

In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in Alameda County have joined to form the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP).

The ACCWP consists of the Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Alameda County, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Zone 7 of the District.

The Goal of the ACCWP

is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks and the San Francisco Bay). The ACCWP encourages using Best Management Practices to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections.

The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, and San Francisco Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, washwater discharged to the storm drains is illegal. A few exceptions as described in the following table, are allowed to discharge when there are no pollutants.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, municipalities participating in the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP) have instituted a business education campaign and inspection program. Inspectors work with contractors and businesses to identify and control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible for their contractors' practices.*

Mobile cleaning activities generate significant quantities of washwater as a result of their washing operations at various sites. Washwater can contain dirt, debris, soap, oil, grease, acid solution, solvents, paint chips, metals, and/or food waste. Washwater discharged to the storm drain system contributes to urban runoff pollution. Even "biodegradable" cleaning agents may cause immediate damage to aquatic ecosystems.

All contractors and individuals who perform cleaning operations can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Some such practices are identified on the following pages.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention, contact Water Resources at **(925) 960-8100**.



Best Management Practices for Transportation – Related Washing Activities

The goal: "Only rain in the storm drain."
The strategy: Keep pollutants from 1) contacting rain and; 2) being dumped, blown, swept, washed, or poured into storm drains.

Category/Activity	Washing or Washwater Conditions	Discharge Options			Best Management Practices (In Order of Preference)
		Storm Drains	Sanitary Sewer (1)	Landscaping/ Dirt Area (2)	
<u>Fleet Washing (Exterior)</u>	Removing mainly dirt: with or without soap	NO	YES	See note 2	<u>Best</u> : use wash pads to capture washwater; discharge to sanitary sewer. <u>2nd</u> : seal storm drains; collect washwater; discharge to sanitary sewer or dirt. (3)
<u>Engine/Equipment Degreasing</u> (Airplane, Auto, Truck)	With or without soap; may contain petroleum products and metals	NO	YES (Pretreatment rqd.)	NO	Use wash pads to capture washwater; drain/pump through pretreatment system before discharge to sanitary sewer (discuss requirements with wastewater agency).
<u>Acid Cleaning of Unpainted Trucks/Metal Containers</u>	Typically contains acid detergents	NO	YES (Pretreatment rqd.)	NO	Use wash pads to capture washwater; neutralize to pH between 6 and 10; discharge to sanitary sewer; contact wastewater agency for approval.
<u>Mobile Auto Detailing</u>	Infrequent, light cleaning; minimum water volume; removing mainly dirt with soap	NO	YES	See note 2	<u>Best</u> : small volume may remain on paved surface to evaporate; if significant flow, seal storm drain and discharge to sanitary sewer. <u>2nd</u> : direct flow onto dirt area.
<u>Car Sales Lot Rinsing for Dust Removal</u>	Light dirt, no soap or solvents	See note 4	YES	See note 2	OK to discharge to storm drain; keep runoff away from oil deposits.
<u>Semi Trailers and Boats</u> (Truck trailer, interior cleaning)	Food-related debris	NO	YES	NO	Sweep, collect and dispose of food residue in garbage; use dry cleaning methods; avoid hosing down trailer; discharge any washwater to sanitary sewer
	Trailer contained toxic substances	NO	NO	NO	If toxic materials spilled in trailer, use dry cleaning methods only – do not hose down; protect storm drains; contact Fire Department for guidance.
	Boat cleaning (including removal of paint chips)	NO	YES (Pretreatment rqd.)	NO	Filter washwater before discharge; dispose of paint particles properly (in garbage or as hazardous waste if contain lead, copper, TBT, or PCBs).

Area	Wastewater Agency
Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, or Piedmont	East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD): 510/287-1651
Cities of Dublin or Pleasanton	Dublin-San Ramon Services District: 925/846-4565
Cities of Fremont, Newark, or Union City	Union Sanitary District: 510/790-0100
City of Hayward	510/881-7900
City of Livermore	925/960-8100
Cities of San Lorenzo or Castro Valley	Oro Loma Sanitary District: 510/276-4700
City of San Leandro	510/577-3434

- (1) "Discharge to sanitary sewer" means discharge into sink, toilet, or sanitary system cleanout. Approval of the wastewater agency is needed and may require: compliance with local regulations or limits; initial sampling; installation of pre-treatment
- (2) This option applies to minimal discharge flows only. Repetitive use or excessive waste volume to the same area may contribute to soil or contamination. Washwater may adversely affect landscaping; discuss with building owner.
- (3) If a significant amount of washwater evaporates from a paved surface at a site used routinely for washing, the paved area itself must be washed (and the washwater discharged to the sanitary sewer) either before October 15 (beginning of the rainy season) or at the end of the contract.
- (4) Permitted only for low flow volume, minimal discharge. Only exterior body cleaning; no cleaning the under carriage or under the hood.