

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

# Tips For Pet Care Providers

The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff support companies like yours in preventing water pollution. The fact that you're reading this fact sheet probably means you have already decided to take steps to do the right thing with the wastewater from your business. Thank you for helping to keep our water safe and healthy.

### Step 1: Filter

Filter the wash water before discharging to the sanitary sewer. Fur and other solids in the wash water can cause blockages in the sewer system. Dispose of filtered material in the garbage.

### Step 2: Discharge Properly

It is important that wash water from pet care activities shampoos be discharged into a *cleanout*, sink, toilet or other drain connected to the *sanitary sewer system* — never into a street, gutter, parking lot or *storm drain*. There are two options for disposing of water with pest control chemicals:

- Arrange with your customer to discharge the wash water from their pet into a toilet or utility sink on their premises, after receiving approval from you local wastewater treatment authority. OR
- Empty the wash water into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at your home base, after receiving approval from your local wastewater treatment authority.



**Keep wash waters, pest control fluids and animal hair OUT of storm drains.**



Pouring wash water from pet care activities into the gutters or storm drains will damage sensitive habitats and kill wildlife. Water flowing into storm drains travels directly to local creeks and then to San Francisco Bay. It does not go to a water treatment plant first.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at [www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org).



Protecting Alameda County  
Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay  
[cleanwaterprogram.org](http://cleanwaterprogram.org)



## What about biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products?

These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled “non-toxic” and “biodegradable.”

- “Non-toxic” means the product is not toxic to the user.
- “Biodegradable” means the product will eventually break down. Biodegradable products can still harm aquatic wildlife since they need time to break down before they are safe. When biodegradable products enter a creek, they are generally still toxic and can harm wildlife and plants.

## What about leftover or unwanted pet shampoos and other pet grooming products?

Unwanted pet care products may contain pesticides or other chemicals that should not be poured down the drain, flushed down a toilet, or put in the trash. Contact the Hazardous Waste agency for your area for more information on proper disposal.

### KEY DEFINITIONS

A **Cleanout** is a pipe fitting with a removable plug for inspecting and cleaning out sewer drain pipes.

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.



**cleanwater**  
PROGRAM

[cleanwaterprogram.org](http://cleanwaterprogram.org)

### CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Simple changes to your operations and maintenance can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at [www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org).

## For More Help

For advice and approval on wastewater disposal to the sanitary sewer system, contact:

**Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland or Piedmont**  
East Bay Municipal  
Utility District (EBMUD)..... (510) 287-1651

**Castro Valley**  
Castro Valley Sanitary District .. (510) 537-0757

**Cities of Dublin or Pleasanton**  
Dublin-San Ramon  
Services District..... (925) 828-0515

**Cities of Fremont, Newark or Union City**  
Union Sanitary District ..... (510) 477-7500

**City of Hayward**  
City of Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900

**City of Livermore**  
City of Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100

**Cities of San Lorenzo, unincorporated portions of San Leandro and Hayward**  
Oro Loma Sanitary District ..... (510) 481-6971

**City of San Leandro**  
City of San Leandro..... (510) 577-3401

### Local Stormwater Agencies

For advice on avoiding disposal to the storm drain system, contact:

Alameda.....(510) 747-7930  
Albany .....(510) 528-5770  
Berkeley.....(510) 981-7460  
Dublin .....(925) 833-6650  
Emeryville .....(510) 596-3728  
Fremont .....(510) 494-4570  
Hayward .....(510) 881-7900  
Livermore.....(925) 960-8100  
Newark .....(510) 578-4286  
Oakland .....(510) 238-6544  
Piedmont.....(510) 420-3050  
Pleasanton .....(925) 931-5511  
San Leandro.....(510) 577-3401  
Unincorporated Alameda  
County.....(510) 567-6700  
Union City.....(510) 675-5301  
Clean Water Program.....(510) 670-5543

### Local Hazardous Waste Agencies

Alameda County Environmental  
Health .....(510) 567-6780  
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin,  
Emeryville, Newark, Piedmont, San Lorenzo,  
and Sunol.)  
Berkeley Toxics .....(510) 981-7460  
Fremont Fire .....(510) 494-4213  
Hayward Fire .....(510) 583-4910  
Livermore-Pleasanton Fire .....(925) 454-2362  
Oakland Fire .....(510) 238-3927  
San Leandro.....(510) 577-3401  
Union City.....(510) 675-5358