

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

# Tips For Surface Cleaning & Power Washing

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.

### Clean using Dry Methods

- Consider using dry cleaning methods: use absorbents such as rags or cat litter to pick up greasy or oily spills. Sweep or vacuum to pick up litter, debris or saturated absorbents. Dispose of used absorbents in the trash.
- If wet cleaning is required, sweep first to remove debris. Minimize the quantity of water used and avoid using soap whenever possible. Even biodegradable soap is harmful to the environment.

### Sidewalks, Plazas, Driveways, Parking Garages:

- Sweep, collect and dispose of debris first.
- Contain, collect and discharge any wash water to the sanitary sewer or haul off-site for proper disposal.
- Dry clean oil spots first and dispose of absorbent properly.
- If excess oil deposits are present and the area is not cleaned frequently, collect and dispose of wash water to sanitary sewer via an oil/water separator, if possible. Discuss with site operator and wastewater agency.
- If cleaning biological hazards contact your local agency for proper practices.

### Discharge Properly

**Possible sanitary sewer discharge points:** Interior sinks, toilets, floor drains, or plumbing cleanouts. You must contact your local wastewater agency before discharging to the sanitary sewer.



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



**Keep wash waters from surface cleaning and power washing OUT of the storm drains.**



Draining wash water from power washing 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 wastewater treatment plant first.

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



## Building Exteriors and Graffiti Removal

- **Glass and Steel Buildings or Painted Buildings with Lead Free Paint & no soap** – Block the storm drains and direct wash water to the sanitary sewer or collect and haul off-site for proper disposal.
- **Painted Building Exteriors that may be Lead-based or have Mercury additives** – Block the storm drains and collect wash water. Pump to a tank and discharge to sanitary sewer or dispose as hazardous waste, if needed. *\*Check wastewater authority requirements for discharge.*
- **Graffiti Removal– If using wet sand blasting** (with no baking soda), minimize the quantity of water used, or **using high pressure washing and cleaning compounds**, block the storm drain and collect wash water. If possible, discuss with site operator and wastewater agency, then discharge to the sanitary sewer.
- **Masonry Efflorescence using Acid Wash**– Block the storm drain and collect wash water: if pH is between 6 and 10, pump to a tank and discharge to sanitary sewer. *\*Check wastewater authority requirements for discharge.*

**How to collect wash water:** Use gravel bag berms, wattles, or mats to contain the wash area so that water does not drain down streets and gutters. Use a wet-vac or small pump and hose to direct water to a sanitary sewer discharge point or to a tank.

## Be a BASMAA Recognized Mobile Cleaner

Take the online “mobile surface cleaning” training from BASMAA (Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association). This program will train you on how to clean different surfaces in an environmentally acceptable way and publish your name as a trained cleaner. Visit [www.basmaa.org/training](http://www.basmaa.org/training) for more information.

### KEY DEFINITIONS

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.



### CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

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

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

## Local Stormwater Agencies

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

Alameda.....	(510) 747-7930
Albany.....	(510) 528-5770
Berkeley.....	(510) 981-6400
Dublin.....	(925) 833-6630
Emeryville.....	(510) 596-3728
Fremont.....	(510) 494-4570
Hayward.....	(510) 881-7900
Livermore.....	(925) 960-8100
Newark.....	(510) 578-4286
Oakland.....	(510) 238-6600
Piedmont.....	(510) 420-3050
Pleasanton.....	(925) 931-5500
San Leandro.....	(510) 577-3401
Unincorp. Alameda County ...	(510) 670-5868
Union City.....	(510) 675-5308

## 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

### City of Dublin

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

### City of Pleasanton

City of Pleasanton..... (925) 931-5500

### 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