

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

# Tips For Mobile Businesses

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: Plan Ahead

- Determine where you will discharge wash water 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.

### Step 2: Divert and Collect Wash Water

- Walk the area to identify storm drains.
- Contain wash area so that water does not drain down streets and gutters– use sand bag berms, wattles, or bermed mats.
- Cover the storm drains to prevent wash water from entering and divert wash water to the sanitary sewer system if permitted to do so.
- Use a “wet-vac” to vacuum up the contained wash water for proper disposal.
- If feasible, wash on a vegetated or gravel surface where wash water can infiltrate into the ground without runoff.

### Step 3: Discharge Properly

It is important that wash water from mobile businesses 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*.



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



**Keep wash waters from automobile detailing and washing, power washing and steam cleaning OUT of the storm drains.**



Draining wash water from mobile business 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).



## 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.

## 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](http://www.basmaa.org).

## Only Rain to the Drain

Allowing any material (liquid or solid) to be dumped into the storm drain, hosed off the pavement in to a storm drain or placed where it could be carried to the storm drain by rainwater is an illegal discharge, and the individual could face civil and criminal prosecution for each violation.

### 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

### 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

## 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) 931-5500  
 San Leandro.....(510) 577-3401  
 Unincorporated Alameda County.....(510) 567-6700  
 Union City.....(510) 675-5301  
 Clean Water Program.....(510) 670-5543