

The storm drains in Paso Robles flow directly into our waterways, and to the ocean without treatment.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!!

Storm Drains are open drains on streets, parking lots, loading docs, roofs, and any other surfaces that receive rain water. These storm drains discharge water, as well as any pollutants and litter that is picked up, into our waterways and eventually the ocean without any form of treatment. Because this water receives no treatment, it is especially important to keep pollutants out.

Disposing of materials or polluted water into storm drains causes serious ecological problems—and is PROHIBITED by law.

Report spills and all illicit discharges to:
(805) 227-7240

City of Paso Robles
Public Works Department
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446



For more information on the City's
Storm Water Program call:
(805) 227-7240

City of Paso Robles

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR POWER WASHING (Mobile and Surface Cleaning)

Power Washing is any activity that uses a water pressure system, including steam cleaning, to clean vehicles, equipment, sidewalks, buildings, dumpsters, or other impervious surfaces. In addition to water, detergents, degreasers and other products may be used in commercial power washing.



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH POWER WASHING?

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. **Wash water from power washing activities may contain significant quantities of oil, grease, chemicals, dirt, and detergents that could end up in our waterways and the ocean.**

BIODEGRADABLE SOAPS

“Biodegradable” is a popular marketing term that can be misleading. Because a product is labeled as biodegradable doesn’t mean that it is non-toxic. Some products are more toxic than others, but none are harmless to aquatic life. Soapy water entering the storm drain system can impact fish and other wildlife within hours.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best Management Practices, (BMP’s), are procedures that help to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean. Using BMP’s adds up to a pollution solution!

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

- Prior to a washing, block all storm drains with an impervious barrier such as gravel bags or berms, or seal storm drains with plugs or rubber mats. Make sure this practice does not flood the area or adversely affect vehicle or pedestrian traffic.
- **Never dispose of wash water into the street, storm drains, landscape drains, drainage ditches, or waterways**
- Wash vehicles and equipment on grassy or gravel areas so that the wash water can seep into the ground.
- **Create** a containment area with berms and tarps or take advantage of low ground to keep wash water contained.
- **Check** that the wash water is not leaking through and add more berms or barriers to contain the wash water.

USE DRY CLEAN-UP METHODS

- Instead of pressure washing, determine what alternative dry methods are available.
- Use mops, brooms, rags or wire brushes to clean pavement, buildings, and equipment as much as possible.
- Use vacuums or other machines to remove and collect loose debris before

JUST ENOUGH FOR THE JOB!

- Minimize water use by using high pressure, low volume nozzles.
- Use the minimal amount of the least toxic detergents and degreasers you will need to complete the job. Try phosphate free detergents.
- Use a mop or rags to clean heavily soiled areas before power washing.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!

- Do not wash equipment or vehicles outdoors on saturated ground or on days when rain is probable.
- Pump or vacuum up all wash water in the contained area.
- Pump or pour the wash water to landscaped areas that will not run off to a storm drain; or discharge the wastewater to the sanitary sewer through an interior building drain, sink, or private sewer clean-out. Discharges to the sewer **should not** contain hazardous materials, grease, grit, or any material that could clog piping.
- Sediments and other solids remaining on the ground should be swept or vacuumed up immediately so they don’t wash into the storm drain system during a rain event.