

# Best Management Practices Fact Sheet for Mobile Cleaning Activities



## Mobile Cleaners

In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in San Luis Obispo County have joined to form **SLO County Partners for Water Quality**.

**The Partners for Water Quality**, an inter-agency coalition that provides stormwater public education and outreach consists of the Cities of:

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	805-756-6664
City of Arroyo Grande	805-476-5400
City of Atascadero	805-461-5000
City of Grover Beach	805-473-4550
City of Morro Bay	805-772-6200
City of Paso Robles	805-227-1654
City of Pismo Beach	805-773-4656
City of San Luis Obispo	805-781-7530
County of San Luis Obispo	805-781-5544
City of Santa Maria	805-925-0951

**The Goal of the SLO County Partners for Water Quality** is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks). The **Partners for Water Quality** 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 the 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 the 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 SLO County Partners for Water Quality 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 of these practices are identified on the following pages.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention, contact your local program representatives.

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**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 the storm drain.

## DISCHARGE OPTIONS

Category/ Activity	Washing or Washwater Conditions	Storm Drains	Sanitary Sewer (1)	Landscaping Dirt Area (2)	Best Management Practices (In Order of Preference)
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### I. TRANSPORTATION RELATED WASHING

<u>Fleet Washing (Exterior)</u>	Removing mainly dirt; with or without soap	No	Yes	See notes 2 and 8	Best: use wash pads to capture discharge to sanitary sewer. 2nd: 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 reqd.)	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 reqd.)	No	Use wash pads to capture washwater; neutralize to pH between 6 and 9; discharge to sanitary sewer; contact wastewater agency for approval.
<u>Mobile Auto Cleaning</u>	Infrequent, light cleaning; minimum water volume; remove mainly dirt with soap	No	Yes	See notes 2 and 8	Best: small volume may remain on paved surface to evaporate; if significant flow, seal storm drain and discharge to sanitary sewer. 2nd: 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.
<u>Semi Trailers and Boats</u> (Truck trailer, interior cleaning)	Trailer contained toxic substances	No	No	No	If toxic material spilled in trailer, use dry cleaning methods only- do not hose down; protect storm drains; discharge any washwater to sanitary sewer.
<u>Semi Trailers and Boats</u> (Truck trailer, interior cleaning)	Boat cleaning (including removal of paint chips)	No	Yes (Pretreatment reqd.)	No	Filter washwater before discharge; dispose of paint particles properly (in garbage or hazardous).

### II. SURFACE CLEANING (5)

<u>Sidewalks and Plazas</u>	Using soap, no oil deposits	No	Yes	See notes 2 and 8	Sweep, collect and dispose of debris; direct discharge to sewer.
Continued	No soap or oil deposits	No	Yes	See note 2	Sweep, collect and dispose of debris; may flow to storm drain.
<u>Sidewalks, Plazas, Driveways, drive Through Window Areas</u>	No soap or oil deposits	No	Yes	See note 2	Sweep, collect and dispose of debris; dry clean oil spots, dispose of absorbent in trash; place oil-absorbent boom around storm drain.

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### II. SURFACE CLEANING (continued)

<u>Drive Throughs, Driveways, Parking Garages, Service Stations</u>	With or without soap; excess oil deposits; not frequently cleaned	No	Yes	No	Seal storm drains; sweep, collect and dispose of debris; dry clean oil spots, dispose of absorbent legally; discharge washwater to sanitary sewer, via oil/water separator if possible. Discuss with site operator and wastewater agency.
<u>Building Exteriors and Walls</u>	Glass and steel buildings, no soap	No	Yes	See note 2	<u>Best:</u> direct washwater to dirt area. <u>2nd:</u> direct flow to storm drain; protect drain with fabric filter if possible.
Continued	Painted buildings (paint known to be lead free), no soap	No	Yes	See note 2	<u>Best:</u> direct washwater to dirt area. <u>2nd:</u> protect drain with fabric filter to keep paint particles out of storm drain.
Continued	Painted buildings with lead-based or mercury-additive paint, including cleaning for paint removal	No	No	No	Seal storm drains and pump washwater to a tank; water and sludge may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste. Consult with wastewater agency, County Health and Fire Department.
<u>Graffiti Removal</u>	Using wet sand blasting (with no baking soda)	No	Yes	See notes 2 and 8	Minimize quantity of water used. <u>Best:</u> direct washwater to dirt area. <u>2nd:</u> filter through boom to keep sand out of storm drain or sewer.
Continued	Using high pressure washing and cleaning compound	No	Yes	See notes 6 and 8	<u>Best:</u> seal storm drains; discharge washwater to sanitary sewer. Discuss with site operator and wastewater agency. <u>2nd:</u> direct washwater to dirt area.
<u>Masonry Efflorescence</u>	Using acid wash to remove mineral deposits	No	Yes	See note 8	Seal/block storm drains. Collect washwater, neutralize to pH 6 to 9, discharge to sanitary sewer.

### III. FOOD RELATED CLEANING

<u>Restaurant Alleys, Grocery Dumpster Areas (outdoors)</u>		No	Yes	No	Best: dry clean only (using rags, absorbents, sweeping debris). 2nd: dry clean first, seal storm drain, wash area, screen out particles, discharge washwater to sanitary sewer.
<u>Restaurant Cleaning of Floor mats, Exhaust Filters, Etc.</u>		No	Yes	No	Washing mats outdoors and discharging washwater to storm drains is prohibited. Best: clean mats inside building and discharge to sink or floor drain. 2nd: clean mats outside in bermed area; discharge washwater to sanitary sewer.

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### III. FOOD RELATED CLEANING (Continued)

<u>Kitchen Grease</u>	Recyclable oil, grease and meat fat	No	No	No	Save for recycling in sealed containers; never pour into sink, floor or storm drain; do not mix with waste grease from trap.
Continued	Grease from interceptor or trap	No	No	No	Never dispose of waste grease in storm drain or sanitary sewer; contact disposal company.
<u>Grocery Carts</u>	Using soap	No	Yes	No	Capture washwater; filter particles; discharge to sanitary sewer.
Continued	No soap	No	Yes	See note 2	Pick up litter. Best: capture washwater; filter particles; discharge to sanitary sewer. 2nd: discharge to storm drains through filter barrier (boom); hot water discharge to creek is prohibited.
<u>Lunch Wagons/Food Carts</u>		No	Yes	No	Equipment should be cleaned on wash pad at commissary equipped to discharge washwater to sanitary sewer. Contact County Health. Only melted ice may drain to storm drain.

### IV. MISCELLANEOUS CLEANING/ OTHER ACTIVITIES

<u>Mobile Homes, Decks, Roofs, Shingles, Awnings, Residential/ Commercial Pool Decks (with paint known to be lead free)</u>	Using Soap	No	Yes	See notes 2 and 8	Direct washwater to dirt area or to sanitary sewer.
Continued	No Soap	See note 7	Yes	See note 2	Best: discharge to dirt area. 2nd: discharge to storm drain through filter barrier (boom).
<u>Mobile Pet Care</u>	Using soap, topical medications and/or flea/tick control shampoos, dips and related pest control fluids.	No	Yes	No	Filter wash water and properly dispose of fur/excess hair and other solids; discharge to sewer.
Continued	No pest control fluids, topical medications, and soap/shampoo or conditioners.	No	Yes	See notes 2 and 8	Filter washwater and properly dispose of fur/excess hair and other solids, before discharging. Best: discharge to sanitary sewer. 2nd: direct washwater to landscaping/dirt area.

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## NOTES:

- (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 equipment; payment of connection fee; and/or obtaining a wastewater discharge permit.
- (2) This option applies to minimal discharge flows only. Repetitive use or excessive waste volume to the same area may contribute to soil and contamination. Wash water may adversely affect landscaping; discuss with building owner.
- (3) If a significant amount of wash water evaporates from a paved surface at a site used routinely for washing, the paved area itself must be washed (and the wash water 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 undercarriage or under the hood.
- (5) BMPs in this category do not apply if there have been oil or other hazardous material spills on the site. In the case of a spill, contact the local fire department for guidance.
- (6) Wash water with cleaning compound may adversely affect landscaping; discuss with building owner.
- (7) Wood shingles may have been treated with a toxic material and should be dry cleaned only. Runoff from cleaning may be toxic to plants in a landscaped area. Wash water must be known to contain no toxic materials before discharge to the storm drains is permitted.
- (8) If landscaped area contains a drainage system, discharge to landscaping may not be an acceptable option. Please contact your local clean water program.

City	Wastewater Agency
City of Arroyo Grande 805-473-5400	City of Paso Robles 805-227-1654
City of Atascadero 805-461-5000 Atascadero Mutual Water Co. 805-466-2428	City of Pismo Beach 805-773-4657
City of Grover Beach 805-473-4550	City of San Luis Obispo 805-781-7425
City of Morro Bay 805-772-6200	

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## METHODS OF COLLECTING WASTEWATER

The following are examples of devices that may be used to contain and collect wash water during pressure washing activities. The collection devices described are not endorsed and are only provided as a reference tool. In addition, there may be other containment devices available, which are not listed. Note: When working with electrical equipment in wet environments, it is important to understand and comply with applicable health/safety and electrical codes, and well as utilize appropriate safety equipment.

### Berms

Berms may be used to prevent wastewater from entering a storm drain by placing a protective barrier around the storm drain inlet, thus allowing wastewater to pool around the inlet prior to proper collection and disposal. This type of containment may be less effective or ineffective when the storm drain is located at the bottom of a slope and/or a large amount of wastewater is generated.



### Storm Drain Covers/Mats

These devices are placed on top of the storm drain cover grate, creating a quick seal, thus preventing wastewater from entering the storm drain system. Storm drain covers/mats (magnetic vinyl mats, PVC drain covers, polyurethane mats, and others) allow wastewater to accumulate on top of it until the pressure washing activity is complete and the wash water can be collected for proper disposal. Storm drain covers/mats are frequently used along with a vacuum device that diverts wastewater into the sanitary sewer.



### Containment Pools

A portable or temporary containment pool is another option which may be used to collect wash water. Containment pools are easy to assemble, provide an immediate work area, and allow wash water to be collected in a manner that will prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system. Containment pools vary in size and material and can also be used for washing equipment and vehicles.



### Vacuums/Pumps

Devices such as wet/dry vacuums, sump pumps, and vacuum pumps may be used to collect and dispose of wash water after pressure washing. Vacuum devices typically have an extension (vacuum boom) which allows the water to be collected efficiently. In addition, many vacuum devices are equipped with a hose that can run from the pump to the sanitary sewer, a treatment device, or a holding tank depending on the disposal method.



### Inflatable Pipe Plug

Inflatable pipe plugs prevent wash water from entering a storm drain system by blocking the pipe leading from the drain inlet. Unlike the storm drain mats/covers that block the storm drain grates, the inflatable pipe plug is inserted into the storm drain pipe and uses the inlet structure beneath the grate to collect the wash water. Once inserted, the plug is inflated to make a snug fit. Once the wash water has been contained, it can be collected and disposed by using a portable pump device. Note: inflatable pipe plugs should only be used in storm drains on private property. They are not authorized to be used in public storm drain inlets or pipes.



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## RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COLLECTION AND CONTAINMENT DEVICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

### **Aqua~Flo Supply**

1940 E. Ojai Avenue  
Ojai, CA 93023  
(805) 646-7244  
Fax (805) 646-7725

**&**

2471 Portola Road  
Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 676-1114  
Fax: (805) 676-1104

[www.aquaflo.com](http://www.aquaflo.com)

### **C&H Distributors, LLC.**

770 South 70th Street  
P.O. Box 14770  
Milwaukee, WI 53214-0770  
Phone: 1-800-558-9966

[www.chdist.com](http://www.chdist.com)

### **Cleaning Equipment Trade Association**

1601 North Bond Street, Suite 303  
Naperville, IL 60563  
Toll Free: 1-800-441-0111  
Phone: (630) 369-7784  
Fax: (630) 369-3773

<http://www.ceta.org/contact.html>

### **Delco Cleaning Systems of Fort Worth**

2513 Warfield Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76106-7554  
U.S./Canada Wats: 800-433-2113  
Fax: (817) 625-2059, Local: (817) 625-4213  
email: [delco@dcs1.com](mailto:delco@dcs1.com)

<http://www.dcs1.com>

### **Impact Absorbent Technologies**

P.O.Box 1131  
5255 Traffic Way  
Atascadero, CA 93423  
Toll Free: 1-800- 339-7672  
Local: (805) 466-4709  
Fax: (805) 466-7709

[www.xsorb.com](http://www.xsorb.com)

### **Lab Safety**

Supply 1-800-356-0783  
[www.labsafety.com](http://www.labsafety.com)

### **New Pig Corporation**

Public Relations  
One Pork Avenue  
P.O. Box 304  
Tipton, PA 16684-0304  
[www.newpig.com](http://www.newpig.com)

### **Power Washers of North America (PWNA)**

P.O. Box 469, Wood Dale, IL 60191  
Fax (651) 699-6709  
Toll Free: 1-800-393-7962  
<http://www.ThePWNA.org>  
Email: [info@ThePWNA.org](mailto:info@ThePWNA.org)

### **The International Carwash Association**

401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2200  
Chicago, IL 60611  
phone: 888-ICA-8422  
email: [info@CarCareCentral.com](mailto:info@CarCareCentral.com)  
<http://www.carcarecentral.com/>

### **Power Washers of North America (PWNA )**

P.O. Box 469  
Wood Dale, IL 60191  
Fax (651) 699-6709  
Toll Free: 1-800-393-7962  
<http://www.ThePWNA.org>  
Email: [info@ThePWNA.org](mailto:info@ThePWNA.org)

### **United Association of Mobile Contract Cleaners**

2513 Warfield Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76106  
Phone: (817) 529-6630 or 1-800-211-0290  
Fax: (817) 624-4409  
<http://www.uamcc.org/>  
Email: [info@uamcc.org](mailto:info@uamcc.org) or  
[webmaster@uamcc.org](mailto:webmaster@uamcc.org)

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