



## CAR WASHES

**It is illegal to allow anything other than rain water to be discharged to a storm drain.**

Never allow vehicle wash water, sealants, or other chemicals used to be transported to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. If discharged or disposed of improperly, materials such as hydrocarbons, oil and grease, and heavy metals can be harmful to water quality and creek habitats.

Individuals and businesses that improperly handle and dispose of non-stormwater materials down the storm drain are both subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

**Cleaning products labeled “nontoxic” and “biodegradable” can still harm wildlife if they enter the storm drain system. These products are prohibited discharges to the storm drain system.**

### BEST PRACTICES:

- Sweep the pavement where autos will be cleaned before you start.
- Clean up wet or oily spots with rags and absorbent, or a designated mop.
- Pour mop wash water into an inside drain.
- Label storm drain inlets with simple messaging such as “No Dumping, Drains to Creek” with a clear picture or symbol.
- Contain wash water and dispose of properly into the sewer system.
- Properly contain used solvents for offsite removal.
- If an automatic washer is being used, ensure that used water is self-contained in the unit and not allowed to discharge into the street or storm drain.

### INFORM YOUR CUSTOMERS

- Post signs to inform customers that working on vehicles is prohibited. It's the law, call the Police if customers don't comply.
- Post signs informing people that dumping waste on your property is illegal.
- Anything dumped at your site becomes your responsibility; make sure everything is disposed of properly to avoid violations.

### WASTEWATER REQUIREMENTS

An approved oil/water separator or sump is required if wash water is discharged to the sewer system. A Wastewater Discharge Permit may be required. **Check with your local municipality for specific requirements.**

### ARE YOU READY TO RESPOND TO A SPILL?

- Have a written plan.
- Train employees annually on storm water regulations, spill response, personal safety, and hazardous waste handling and disposal.
- Have spill cleanup materials onsite.
- Have Safety Data Sheets for all products used.

**For an emergency or a spill involving hazardous materials or hazardous waste call 911 or your local Fire Department.**

### For All Non-Emergency / Non-Hazardous Spills

- To report a Non-Hazardous spill, or for other useful phone numbers, see Spill Numbers informational reference sheet for your local agency contact information or visit:  
[www.streetstocreeks.org/spill-numbers/](http://www.streetstocreeks.org/spill-numbers/)



## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Use the QR code to find your local stormwater contact or visit:  
[mcstoppp.org/illegal-discharge-contacts](https://www.mcstoppp.org/illegal-discharge-contacts)



[www.mcstoppp.org](https://www.mcstoppp.org)

(415) 473-6528

[mcstoppp@marincounty.org](mailto:mcstoppp@marincounty.org)