

## AGAIN, ONLY RAIN

### DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

- ⊘ **Never** 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 wash water to landscaped areas that will not runoff to a storm drain or make sure you have a connection to a sanitary sewer. **Note:** 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 so they don't wash into the storm drain system during a rain event.

## PREVENT WATER

### POLLUTION ON THE JOB

The following are some **Best Management Practices that must be implemented to eliminate polluted water discharges to the storm drain system:**

- Reduce or eliminate chemical pesticides or fertilizers from landscaping & lawns.
- Maintain chemical storage areas appropriately. Cover chemicals and use secondary containment.
- Collect and dispose of wash water to the sanitary sewer (*i.e. sink or wash tub*)\*.
- Dispose of waste appropriately and cover dumpsters and garbage cans.
- Wash vehicles and equipment at car washes that recycle the wash water, or discharge to a sanitary sewer\*.
- Dry sweep or vacuum instead of washing down to storm drains.
- Keep storm drains clear of debris, soil, sand, silt and waste matter.
- Perform vehicle maintenance and repair at approved locations.

- Implement spill prevention and response measures for chemical storage areas.
- **Spill Kit** – Keep a spill kit on site. Kits include: protective garments, eyewear, and gloves; absorbent materials; drain covers; and a list of emergency contact numbers. Have a plan on how to clean up chemical or solvent spills before a spill occurs.
- Implement sediment and erosion control measures.
- **\*Note:** If you choose to discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer system you must contact the MRWPCA Industrial Pretreatment Program for restrictions and limitations at (831) 883-6126.

## EMERGENCIES OR SPILLS

To report a discharge or spill of **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** call 911 immediately

To report a discharge or spill of **SEWAGE** (*Known or suspected*) immediately call the City of Marina's Wastewater Collection Department at (831) 384-6131, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For **OTHER EMERGENCIES** call 911.

To report a discharge or spill of **OTHER LIQUID MATERIALS** (*Non-sewage / Non-hazardous*) contact our Dispatch Non-Emergency Hotline at (831) 384-7575.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution from power washing activities. If you have suggestions contact us at (831) 884-1212.

**More Information Call**

**(831) 884-1212, or visit**

**[www.ci.marina.ca.us](http://www.ci.marina.ca.us)**



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## Stormwater Management Program

### *Best Management Practices for Power Washing (Mobile Surface Cleaning!)*

Within the City of Marina, storm drains flow directly into our environment without treatment. In recent years, sources of water pollution, like industrial wastes from factories, have been greatly reduced. However, the **majority of water pollution now occurs from** things like cars leaking oil, wash water from restaurants, fertilizers from lawns and gardens, fertilizers from farms, **residential car washing, pet waste and runoff caused from power washing activities** creating runoff into the environment.

All these sources add up to a pollution problem! The good news is that each of us can do our part to help protect the environment! The City of Marina is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter the environment and local ground water supplies. Local ground water supplies are a primary source of drinking water.

Our primary objective is compliance through public outreach and education; however, violations can result in **citations and/or fines**. Thus, please follow the easy tips in this brochure to help prevent water pollution caused by power washing activities.

**More Information Call**

**(831) 884-1212**

## ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!

Storm Drains are open drains on streets, parking lots, loading docks, roofs and any other surfaces that receive rain water. Marina storm drains discharge water - as well as the pollutants and litter picked up by water - into the environment which eventually can infiltrate into our local ground water supplies without any form of treatment. Because this water receives no treatment, it has the potential to pollute our environment. **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. Water, detergents, degreasers and other products may be used in commercial power washing.



## THE PROBLEM WITH POWER WASHING

In Marina storm drains are **NOT connected to the sanitary sewer systems**, therefore all materials (*i.e. liquids and solids*) that enter them flow directly to our environment? 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 or dislodge significant quantities of oil, grease, chemicals, dirt, and detergents that could end up in our environment. **Disposing of materials into storm drains** also causes serious ecological problems and is **PROHIBITED by law**.

There are many practical things that operators of pressure washers and those using a hose can do when washing down sidewalks, sides of buildings or a vehicle. Simply consider the following:



## BMPS

Or Best Management Practices are procedures, practices and / or routines that help to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean. **Using BMPs, adds up to a pollution solution!**

## BIODEGRADABLE SOAPS

The best thing that we can do is be informed consumers. “**Biodegradable**” is a popular marketing term that can be misleading - just because a product is labeled as biodegradable **doesn't mean that it is non-toxic**. Some very popular biodegradable products are more toxic than others, but all are harmful to aquatic life if not used, stored and disposed of properly. Soapy water entering the storm drain system can negatively impact the environment and wildlife within hours. **Become a label reader and purchase non-toxic biodegradable products**. And be sure to follow the directions on the product label – only use as directed.

## 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 (*i.e. shop vacuums*) or other machines to remove and collect loose debris before applying water.
- Pre-clean the area by sweeping first and disposing of all materials into the trash.

## LOCATION, LOCATION, ...

- Prior to washing impervious surfaces (*i.e. sidewalks*), 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 or drainage ditches.
- 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.

## JUST ENOUGH FOR THE JOB

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