

Wash without polluting

Washwater can't go down storm drains

Washwater is not allowed in the stormwater system, which drains into streams and rivers.

Washwater contains oil, soap, grease, heavy metals, and other chemicals. These pollute the water.

Toxic chemicals that enter the Puget Sound can harm fish and wildlife — even if they are labeled 'biodegradable.'

Keep washwater out of your stormwater system

Common activities like washing cars, pressure washing, and rinsing mats can produce dirty washwater.

Washwater that enters the stormwater system is **your business'** responsibility to clean up. Avoid expensive clean-ups — don't let washwater into storm drains.

Train staff on proper cleaning methods. Make sure that **contractors** you hire will dispose washwater correctly too.

Keep a **spill kit** and **barriers** on hand. If you can't wash cars indoors or on grass, use a **commercial car wash**.



Washing tips



Report spills: 360-363-8100
marysvillewa.gov/BizInspection

 MARYSVILLE

How to wash right

Best options for washing cars

1. Use a commercial car wash
2. Wash cars indoors and collect washwater for treatment, disposal, or the sanitary sewer
3. Wash on grass or gravel

Block washwater from storm drains

- Place a **filter or barrier** to keep washwater out of storm drains
- Direct washwater towards **landscaped areas** or collect and dispose in the sanitary sewer

Keep washwater out of storm drains! Follow these guidelines when:

- 💧 **WASHING CARS**
- 💧 **RINSING MATS**
- 💧 **CLEANING FLOORS**
- 💧 **PRESSURE WASHING**

Prevention is best

- **Vacuum sweep** instead of hosing down floors or washing parking lots
- **Don't use solvents**, or use less
- Inspect vehicles regularly and **do vehicle maintenance indoors**
- **Clean up spills immediately**



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