

# CLEANING METHODS

When done right, pressure washing can be a great way to remove pollution (spilled oils, food debris) before it is washed away during the next rainstorm.

However, you must make sure the wash water from your cleaning activities isn't the **cause** of a pollution problem! Collect and dispose of wash water properly!

Wash water containing pollutants must be collected and discharged to the local wastewater treatment plant (call for prior approval) or, in certain cases, soaked up by nearby landscaping.

We hope you will use this brochure to make good choices when using pressure washers in order to protect our local waterways and avoid costly fines.

**It's up to all of us to protect our creeks and rivers!**

## REMEMBER

**Property and business owners are responsible for contractor practices.**

# FURTHER RESOURCES

**For specific wastewater disposal issues, contact your local wastewater treatment plant.**

**For a list of pretreatment coordinators in Colorado visit:**

[www.epa.gov/region08/water/wastewater/prethome/contacts/ptcowho.html](http://www.epa.gov/region08/water/wastewater/prethome/contacts/ptcowho.html)  
303-312-6377

**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Water Quality Control Division**

[www.cdphe.state.co.us](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us)  
303-692-3500

**Watershed Approach to Stream Health (WASH) Project**

[www.BASIN.org/WASH](http://www.BASIN.org/WASH)  
303-441-1439



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# WATER PROTECTION GUIDE

PRESSURE WASHERS

**What you need to know when pressure washing:**

Building Exteriors

Dumpster Areas

Parking Lots

Sidewalks

Drive-thru Areas

Grocery Carts

Graffiti

Car Lots

Patios/Plazas



# LIQUID WASTES

**We all want clean drinking water and healthy streams. So, we all have to do our share to protect our local water quality. Your help is crucial.**

Outdoor pressure washing activities are a source of water pollution. When wash water, and the detergents and pollutants it carries, enters a storm drain it flows directly to our local creeks.

The detergents used in cleaning activities, even those labeled "non-toxic" and "biodegradable," may cause immediate harm to fish and other wildlife. Allowing any pollutant to enter storm drains, creeks, or water bodies is **ILLEGAL!** \*

**Make sure you or the company you hire knows how to do the job right!**

\* "No person shall discharge non-stormwater wastewater which contains pollutants from an industrial, commercial or sanitary point source to a storm sewer..."

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Water Quality Control Division Regulation #65

# WATER

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

**Dry cleanup methods should be used prior to any pressure washing.**

These include using absorbents (kitty litter, rags, sand, etc.) to clean up spills, sweeping, vacuuming, and scrapping off dried debris. The waste material should be disposed of properly.

**Wash water may NOT be discharged into a storm drain.**

**IF** you do not use any chemicals or detergents AND are only cleaning surfaces of ambient dust, **THEN** you may direct the wash water to nearby landscaping OR contain it onsite and allow it to evaporate.

When discharging to landscaping, make sure the water is being absorbed into the ground and not running off into a storm drain or paved area.

# FIVE EASY STEPS

## FOR PROPER DISPOSAL

- 1 Identify where all storm drains are located. Storm drains may be located in the gutter at the end of a block or in landscaping - hidden from view. Wash water must not be allowed to flow down gutters or enter storm drains.
- 2 Determine where water will pool for collection.
- 3 Use the following types of equipment to protect storm drains and to contain and collect wash water: vacuum pumps, booms / berms, portable containment areas, weighted storm drain covers, inflatable plumber's plugs, oil / water separators, holding tanks, portable sump pumps, hoses, and absorbents.
- 4 Once water is collected, dispose of it properly. Collected wash water may be disposed of into a sanitary sewer drain at the job site or at the contractor's place of business. (FIRST, ask for permission from the property owner and the wastewater treatment plant. DO NOT dispose of waste water to a septic system.)
- 5 A permit may be required prior to disposal to the sanitary sewer. Check first with your local wastewater treatment plant for authorization. Contact information for your local wastewater treatment plant is listed here.

### CONTACTS

City of Boulder	303-413-7350
City of Lafayette	303-665-6034
City of Longmont	303-651-8667
City of Louisville	303-335-4780
Town of Superior	303-641-1918
Town of Erie	303-926-2895
Town of Lyons	303-823-6622 x18
Town of Nederland	303-258-3167
Gunbarrel	303-413-7350

**If you have questions or need additional assistance, please call the Partners for A Clean Environment (PACE) program at (303) 441-1187 or visit our website at [www.pacepartners.com](http://www.pacepartners.com).**

