

# LIQUID WASTES

**We all want clean drinking water and healthy streams. So, we all have to do our share to protect water.**

A major source of water pollution in the United States is urban stormwater runoff. Runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt flows over parking lots and streets - picking up oil and other pollutants on the way to the nearest stream or lake.

Your local community is working hard to protect stormwater from pollution. Your help is crucial. This brochure is to help you make good decisions about the way you use rental equipment.

## **It is up to all of us to protect our water!**

The use of some rental equipment can create liquid wastes if not cleaned up properly. Allowing wastes to flow into a ditch, gutter, or storm drain can pollute our streams and lakes (it is also illegal).

**Why?** - storm drains flow directly to streams and other waterways without filtration or treatment. The table inside this brochure outlines steps you can take to help protect our water.

# FURTHER RESOURCES

## **Colorado Water Quality Control Division**

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

## **Environmental Protection Agency**

[www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)

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

A partnership of communities in the Boulder and St. Vrain watersheds working together to protect our water quality.

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



## **Partners for A Clean Environment**

A partnership of local governments and businesses to encourage and recognize environmental achievements.

BOULDER COUNTY • CITY OF BOULDER • CITY OF LONGMONT  
CITY OF LOUISVILLE • TOWN OF ERIE • TOWN OF SUPERIOR

303.786.PACE • [www.pacepartners.com](http://www.pacepartners.com)

# WATER PROTECTION GUIDE

RENTAL STORE CONSUMER

What you  
need to  
know when  
renting equipment



## RENTAL EQUIPMENT

## ▶ APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL

### Carpet Cleaner

- ▶ Discharge dirty water to a drain or toilet inside a building.<sup>1</sup>

### Cement Mixer

- ▶ Put hardened concrete in the trash. Rinse off equipment onto grass or other unpaved surface. Do not allow water to flow away from the area.

### Cement Saw or Grinder

- ▶ Allow slurry to dry and sweep up dust immediately, or wet vacuum and drain onto unpaved surface. Do not allow water to flow away from the area.

### Earth-moving Equipment

- ▶ Keep dirt on-site. Prevent soil from washing into the storm drain. Cover disturbed soils and stockpiles with plastic or landscape cloth. When the project is complete, seed and mulch disturbed areas immediately. Do not stockpile or store soil in the street or on paved areas.

### Garden Equipment

- ▶ Apply pesticides and fertilizers only when rain is not forecasted, and buy and mix only the amount you need. Rinse containers, using the rinse water as product. Dispose of rinsed containers in the trash. Dispose of unused pesticides as hazardous waste.<sup>2</sup> When pruning or cleaning up yard waste, compost or take clippings and brush to municipal yard waste collection facility.

### Paint Sprayer

- ▶ **Water-based paint:** wipe excess paint out of sprayer, then rinse equipment into sink or toilet.<sup>1</sup> Small amounts of leftover paint can be allowed to dry in the original container, then put into trash. For larger quantities, dispose of as hazardous waste.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ **Oil-based paint:** filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of all cleanup materials and excess paint as hazardous waste.<sup>2</sup>

### Pressure Washer

- ▶ Commercial operations must capture all wastewater for disposal to sanitary sewer.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Residents may only discharge wash water (with no soap) used to remove dust for appearance purposes to the storm drain. However, it is more protective of the environment to capture the water for disposal to the sanitary sewer.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Small amounts of wash water free of detergents/soaps/chemicals may be disposed onto landscaping or unpaved surfaces where the discharge will not cause flooding, cause a slipping hazard, or flow to a storm drain or body of water.

### Pump

- ▶ Temporary groundwater dewatering: (residential site) ensure that sediment and pollutants are not present. Check site records for soil and groundwater test results. Check for odors, discoloration, or an oily sheen. Is the water clear and free of sediment? If the water is free of sediments and pollutants, you may discharge to a landscaped area. Be sure not to cause a slipping or traffic hazard.
- ▶ For commercial or construction sites, contact the Colorado Water Quality Control Division<sup>3</sup> or your local stormwater coordinator<sup>4</sup> for guidance.
- ▶ Pool/fountain discharge: ensure that chlorine and chemicals (e.g. algacides) are not present; then discharge to a landscaped area.  
Note: If a landscaped area is not available, or if flow exceeds 10 gallons/minute, discharge to sanitary sewer<sup>1</sup> or storm sewer system<sup>4</sup> with permission from your local government.

### Sand Blaster

- ▶ **Non-hazardous paint:** capture on a plastic sheet or tarp; sweep up and dispose as trash.
- ▶ **Hazardous paint** (e.g. marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin): capture on a plastic sheet or tarp, sweep up and dispose as hazardous waste.<sup>2</sup>

### Sander

- ▶ Sweep and dispose of in trash.

### Sewer Snake

- ▶ Rinse in bucket or container and discharge rinse water to a toilet inside building.



<sup>1</sup> Unlike the storm drainage system that drains directly into creeks and waterways, plumbing inside buildings is typically connected to a sanitary sewer system that drains to a wastewater treatment plant where the water is cleaned before it is discharged to the environment. Check with the local wastewater treatment plant with questions on what can go down the drain. Boulder 303-413-7350, Erie 303-926-2895, Longmont 303-651-8667, Louisville 303-335-4779, Superior 720-641-1918

<sup>2</sup> Residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, and the Town of Erie can, with driver's license or other proof of residency, dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) at the Boulder County HHW facility. Please call 303-441-4800 or visit [www.bouldercountyrecycles.net](http://www.bouldercountyrecycles.net) for more information.

<sup>3</sup> Colorado Water Quality Control Division, 303-692-3500

<sup>4</sup> Stormwater Coordinators: Boulder 303-413-7350, Erie 303-926-2975, Longmont 303-651-8304, Louisville 303-335-4779, Superior 303-499-3675