



Vehicle Washing

IN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Vehicle wash water may contain sediments, phosphorus, metals, oil and grease, and other pollutants that can degrade water quality. When vehicles are washed on impervious surfaces such as parking lots or industrial areas, dirty

wash water can contaminate stormwater that ends up in streams. Vehicle washing pollution prevention practices generally apply to industrial operations that maintain a fleet of vehicles.



Poor vehicle washing practices.



Good vehicle washing practices.



Cover storm drain inlets to prevent wash water from entering storm drain.

Pollution prevention opportunities include:

- Wash vehicles at indoor car washes that recycle, treat or convey wash water to the sanitary sewer system.
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based soaps.
- Use flow-restricted hose nozzles that automatically turn off when left unattended.
- Wash vehicles on a permeable surface or a wash pad that has a containment system.
- Prohibit discharge of wash water into the storm drain system or ground by using temporary berms, storm drain covers, drain plugs or other containment systems.
- Label storm drains with “No Dumping” signs to deter disposal of wash water in the storm drain system.
- Pressure and steam clean off-site to avoid runoff with high pollutant concentrations.
- Obtain permission from sewage treatment facilities to discharge to the sanitary sewer.
- If you use a service provider, add language to protect water quality in the maintenance contract.
- Instruct contractors in pollution prevention and require proper wash and rinse water disposal.