

# Thank You Restaurant Owners for protecting our waterways

## When pressure washing, remember:

- ◆ Pressure washing should be done on your site only if you're equipped to capture and properly dispose of all wash water.
- ◆ Avoid pressure washing as much as possible.
- ◆ Use waterless cleaning methods such as absorbents, brooms, and wire brushes. Use tarps to catch paint chips.
- ◆ Mechanically remove loose debris before applying water. Collect dislodged material and dispose of it properly. If you suspect the material might be hazardous, call the Disposal of Toxics facility at 360-380-4640 for information on how to dispose of it.
- ◆ Use high pressure, low volume water to reduce overspray.
- ◆ Avoid using acids or other harsh cleaning products and detergents that contain phosphates.
- ◆ Contain wash water by temporarily blocking all storm drains (with rubber mats, for example). Then use sandbags or other materials to divert the flow of wash water to the sanitary sewer or a grassy/vegetated area that does not directly discharge to a storm drain. (This method should not be used if the water contains any hazardous substances.)
- ◆ If necessary, use a sump pump to redirect water from storm drains into the sanitary sewer system. Call the City of Bellingham to check out a sump pump kit at 676-6961.
- ◆ Place dechlorination tablets in the water flow to remove chlorine, which can kill aquatic insects and other organisms in the lake or stream that receives the discharge. Tablets are available from HD Fowler Inc. in Bellingham or from Pollare Water: 1-800-437-1146.

Pressure washing information from "Preventing Water Pollution", Business Pledge Manual.



**For more information  
contact the Storm & Surface  
Water Utility Manager, 676-6961**

**Bellingham Municipal Code 15.42.505 (3)**