Stormwater Pollution Prevention
For Vehicle Washing and Detailing Businesses
What is stormwater pollution?
What’s so important about stormwater?

#1 source of water pollution in urban areas of Western Washington
Why is stormwater a problem?

- 75% of toxic chemicals entering Puget Sound come from roads, driveways, rooftops, yards and other developed land

Source: Department of Ecology
Where does water go when it leaves your worksite?

**WASTEWATER:** Indoor drains collect water from sinks, toilets, washing machines, and other sources. This water is treated at a wastewater treatment facility. The solids are removed and the cleaned water is discharged into a nearby water body. Contact your local wastewater treatment facility before disposing of toxic or questionable substances down indoor drains.

**STORMWATER:** Outdoor drains and ditches collect water from hard surfaces like roofs, pavement, and hard-packed ground. This water is piped through the stormwater system and discharged directly into water bodies like creeks, streams, and marine waters without any treatment.
Stormwater goes directly into streams without any treatment
How do vehicle washing and detailing business practices affect stormwater?

If soaps, phosphorus-containing cleaners and degreasers, oil, gas, antifreeze, metals, dirt, road grime, and grease reach waterways, they can cause significant water pollution problems.
What’s the problem?

- Soaps, even biodegradable soaps
- Brake pad dust contains copper
- Fuel, oil, and cleaning chemicals
Why these things are harmful:

- Some pollutants are deadly to fish and aquatic life
- Soap harms fish
- Metals are toxic to fish
- Oil, fuel, grease, pH, temperature
- Fine sediment particles are pollutants
What’s the solution?
Best Management Practices

Pre-clean all oily parts using a reusable rag.
Best Management Practices

Avoid hose-off degreasers and cleaners.
Best Management Practices
Make sure your wash water drains to the sewer system.
Best Management Practices
You may be required to have an oil/water separator.
Best Management Practices

Maintain your oil/water separator.
Best Management Practices

Anything ignitable, reactive, corrosive, or toxic must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
Best Management Practices
Use a third party hauling business.
Best Management Practices

Cover and secure the lids to garbage cans.
Best management practices can be simple!
Best Management Practices:
Get to know the drainage on your site.
Best Management Practices:
Map your storm drains.
Best Management Practices:
Good housekeeping goes a long way.
Best Management Practices:
Sweep!
Best Management Practices:
Spill Kits
Best Management Practices: Clean up spills and drips!
Best Management Practices:
Keep all cleaners and chemicals in closed, covered, labeled containers.
Best Management Practices:
Clean up and report spills and leaks.
Report spills – it’s the law:

You must call the TWO (2) following 24-hour numbers:

1) National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802
2) Washington Emergency Management Division: (including Emergency Release Notification)
   1-800-258-5990 -OR- 1-800-OILS-911

Local help can be found at:
Bellingham Stormwater Hotline 778-7979, or online at cob.org by searching “stormwater”
Best Management Practices:
Check catch basins under storm drains.
Best Management Practices:
Block storm drains before starting any outdoor work that might impact stormwater.
Best Management Practices:
Parking lot maintenance
Best Management Practices:
Waste material storage
Best Management Practices:
Indoor and outdoor storage
Best Management Practices:
Roof drains
Best Management Practices:
Garbage, etc.
Additional Resources:

- Department of Ecology’s Hazardous Waste Services Directory
- Department of Ecology’s Spills Report Hotline
- Bellingham Stormwater Hotline: 778-7979
- Lee First, Pollution Prevention Specialist, RE Sources for Sustainable Communities (360) 733 8307
- Washington Stormwater Center: [www.wastormwatercenter.org/](http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/)
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www.cob.org/services/environment/stormwater/

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