



Business/Industrial Pollution Prevention



As a Business Owner, How Can I Prevent Water Pollution?

Car Washing Businesses



- Since commercial vehicle washing discharges cannot be discharged to the storm drain, businesses must construct a wash pad that drains to the sanitary sewer.
- Treat and recycle wash water to minimize water use and sanitary sewer discharges.
- Install an oil/grit separator if required by the sewer agency or building department.
- If car washing is an occasional activity of your business, consider providing customers with a voucher to a properly equipped and permitted commercial carwash.

Concrete and Mortar Businesses

- Wash concrete mixers and trucks in designated wash areas where water flows to a containment area.
- Dispose of small amounts of dried material (concrete, grout, or mortar) in the trash.
- Recycle cement wash water by pumping it back into cement mixers for use.
- Schedule projects for dry weather and store materials under cover.
- Take measures to temporarily block nearby storm drain inlets to prevent runoff from entering.
- Do not mix more concrete or mortar than is needed for the job.
- Pick up all pieces of broken up pavement and recycle them at a local construction and demolition recycling company. See www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle
- Never hose materials from exposed aggregate concrete or asphalt into a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain.



Food Service Industry Businesses



- Train all employees on Best Management Practices upon hiring and each year thereafter and have the Best Management Practices posted where employees can see them.
- Collect grease and oil in covered leak-free bins. Schedule regular pick-ups with your local rendering service.
- Never dump fats, oil, or greases into the sink, storm drain, or dumpster.
- Provide a containment area for your dumpster that prevents wind and rain from transporting trash and liquids to the storm drain.
- Wrap food wastes in plastic bags and place them in the dumpster.
- Meat fat should be collected in a covered, leak-free tallow bin.
- Store cleaning fluids indoors so leaks and spills cannot reach the storm drain.

- Clean equipment under cover and in a contained runoff area. Never pour wash water outside.
- Use an approved contract service to clean large kitchen floor mats.

Industrial and Commercial Businesses

- Keep chemicals in their original containers, properly sealed, and keep them labeled.
- Cover storage areas with a roof and divert stormwater around the area.
- Raise containers off the ground by use of pallet or similar method and contain the material in a manner that will ensure contents will not be washed into the storm drainage system, surface water, or groundwater.
- Keep storage areas clean and inspect them regularly for leaks and spills. Do not hose down or pressure wash the areas into a storm drain.
- Clean oily parking/vehicle spots with absorbent material and dispose of properly.
- Clean drain inlets, driveway slot drains, and storm water vaults at regular maintenance intervals.



Landscaping Businesses

- Use temporary check dams or ditches to divert runoff away from storm drains.
- Prevent erosion by applying mulch or by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses.
- Do not dump organic materials on to sidewalks, roads, or parking areas where stormwater runoff can wash it into storm drains.
- DO not blow or rake leaves into the street, gutter, or storm drains. Collect and dispose of organic material in your garbage or green waste bin or compost.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals at your business in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- Use dry cleaning methods, such as sweeping, instead of washing materials from sidewalks or driveways.
- Chemicals are not the only solution! Choose pesticide alternatives like predatory insects or bacterial insecticides.



Mobile Cleaning Businesses

- Fleet Washing: Use wash pads to cover drain inlets and capture wash water to discharge to the sanitary sewer or dirt area.
- Car Sales Lot Rinsing for Dust Removal: As long as no soap is involved, it is acceptable to discharge to the storm drain, but keep runoff away from oil deposits.
- Engine and Equipment Degreasing: Use wash pads to capture wastewater, pump through pretreatment system before discharging to the sanitary sewer.
- Acid Cleaning of Unpainted Trucks or Metal Containers: Use wash pads to capture wash water, neutralize to a pH between 6 and 10 and discharge to the sanitary sewer.
- Semi-Trailers and Boats: Filter wash water before discharge, dispose of paint particles or food residue in garbage.



- Surface Cleaning: Minimize the use of chemicals and use natural alternatives to harsh chemicals.



- Sidewalks and Plazas: Sweep, collect, and dispose of debris in the garbage.
- Driveways, Parking Garages, and Service Stations: Seal storm drains, sweep, collect and dispose of debris, dry clean oil spots and dispose of absorbent in trash, discharge wash water into the sanitary sewer.
- Building Exteriors and Walls: Direct wash water to dirt areas.
- Graffiti Removal: Minimize the quantity of water used and direct wash water to dirt area or sanitary sewer.
- Masonry Efflorescence: Seal or block storm drains, collect wash water, neutralize to a pH from 6 to 10 and discharge into the sanitary sewer.