

## Special Considerations for Buildings: PCBs

- Buildings built or renovated from about 1950 to 1979 had widespread use of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).
- PCBs may be present in caulking, grout, joint materials, paints, sealants, lubricants, roofing, metal coatings, and light ballasts.
- PCBs are toxic and cancer-causing chemicals.



PCBs In Buildings  
[tinyurl.com/tmbth5wn](https://tinyurl.com/tmbth5wn)

## Wash Water Disposal

- Wash water that contains solid waste and petroleum products must be filtered prior to disposal.

Type of Wash Water	Dispose to Sanitary Sewer	Dispose to Ground	Dispose to Storm Drain or Natural Water Body
Plain water + filtered	✓	✓	✓
Soapy water + filtered	✓	★	✗
Dirty/turbid water	✓	★	✗
Oily water + oil-absorbing filter	✓	★	✗
Dirty or soapy water with no filtration	✓	✗	✗

\*check with your local jurisdiction

## Hazardous Waste Disposal

- Pressure washing can create hazardous waste that needs special disposal, including:
  - » Dirty absorbent materials that may contain PCBs.
  - » Rags or absorbent pads with gasoline, oils, grease, thinner, solvent, or organic chemicals.
- **Dispose of hazardous waste** properly.
  - » **Option 1:** Use a licensed waste hauler.
  - » **Option 2:** Bring small quantities of accepted waste to a hazardous waste drop-off location.
- **Keep records** of your hazardous waste disposal: who hauled it, how much was hauled, and when it was hauled.



Find a Hazardous Waste Service Provider  
[tinyurl.com/y64pt48r](https://tinyurl.com/y64pt48r)



Find a Hazardous Waste Disposal Site  
[tinyurl.com/46nczbnk](https://tinyurl.com/46nczbnk)

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6600 or email at [Chelsea.Morris@ecy.w.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Morris@ecy.w.gov), or visit [ecology.wa.gov/accessibility](https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility).

For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.



# Stormwater Pollution Prevention for PRESSURE WASHING

Keep our communities, creeks, lakes, and Puget Sound healthy.



# Pressure Washing Best Practices for Pollution Prevention

## The Problem

- Wastewater from washing practices can contain toxic pollutants.
- Pressure washing can release pollutants from surfaces due to the force of the water.
- When not cleaned up properly, waste from washing can pollute stormwater runoff.
- Storm drains flow to the nearest creek, lake, wetland, or Puget Sound.



## Only Rain Down the Drain

- Regulations and laws about pressure washing can vary by location, and some jurisdictions strictly regulate pressure washing.
- But they all have one thing in common: **ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN.**
- Do NOT use soap or chemicals.
- Wash water that contains soap (including biodegradable), chemicals, soil, or is untreated should NOT be dumped - these are pollutants and can kill fish.



Stormwater Pollution Education Guide

[apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0710058.pdf](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0710058.pdf)



## Setup

- Identify where wash water will flow and temporarily cover storm drains.
- Use a containment system to capture wash water.
  - » For ground surfaces, use a pressure washer with a built-in water reclamation system.
  - » For equipment and vehicles, line the area with a ground tarp and surround it with a temporary berm.
- Equipment needed for portable wash water containment system:
 

» Storm drain grate covers	» Portable ground berm
» Ground cover tarps	» Sand bags
» Portable pump and hoses	» Absorbent pads and socks/boom



## Capture the Wash Water

- While washing, move or adjust the containment system to capture and contain the wash water.



DIY Wash Water Reclaim System

[youtube.com/watch?v=cmdxslBDtFE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=cmdxslBDtFE)

## Treat the Wastewater

- Use filter fabric to filter the water.
- Solid pieces of waste go into the garbage.

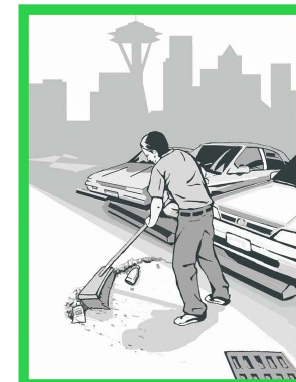
## General Best Practices for Pressure Washing

- Sweep work areas to cleanup.
- Cover or block nearby storm drains.
- Do NOT direct or pour wash water into a storm drain.
- DO manage wash water by one of these options:
  1. Direct into a landscaped area to soak into the ground.
  2. Discharge to the sanitary sewer (toilet or indoor sink) is okay if the water has only small amounts of grit or oil.

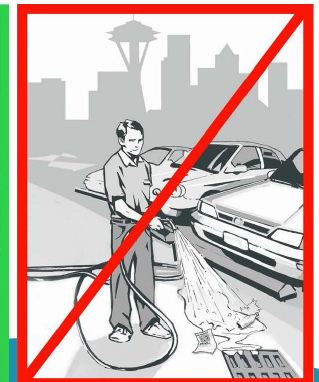


BMPs for Washing and Steam Cleaning Vehicles / Equipment / Building Structures

[tinyurl.com/59ms2ck7](https://tinyurl.com/59ms2ck7)



Sweep and use dry cleanup methods.



Do NOT hose off the ground.

