



# Surface Cleaning

## Are cleaning projects sending pollutants to our streams and rivers?

Protect streams, river and groundwater by following these Best Management Practices when washing outside:

**Pollution** can come from:

- Commercial cleaning of vehicles
- Restaurant kitchens
- Carpets
- Industrial equipment
- Buildings with low- or high-pressure water.
- Fundraising car washes

Cleaning can include pressure washing, hand washing, scrubbing, sanding, etc.

Unless it is clean water, keep wastewater out of storm drains.

Wash water includes soap, detergent, dirt and grease, which pollutes.

**Pollution Control** includes:

- Conducting the activity inside a building.
- Containing the cleaning activity.
- Collecting discharge water.
- Sending wash water to a sanitary sewer (with approval from the local sewer authority).
- Keeping polluted water out of storm drains and preventing it from flowing into surface waterways or infiltrating into the ground.

**Prevent** the discharge of pollutants with drain plugs, dams or berms.



**Cowlitz**  
**Clean Waters**

[www.cowlitzcleanwater.org/business](http://www.cowlitzcleanwater.org/business)