

Mobile businesses are integral to our community and like other businesses need to properly dispose of their waste products. As mobile businesses such as power washers and car detailers mainly use water it is important for these businesses to prevent waste and waste water from entering storm drains and polluting streams, rivers, bays and the ocean.

While water used to clean carpets, buildings, vehicles or used during construction may not be considered polluted, the chemicals, dirt and other materials carried by the wastewater lead to contaminants in our water sources.

The information contained in this brochure is intended to help you and other mobile businesses use best management practices to properly dispose of waste water.

Paving/Grading Operations

Paving, surfacing, resurfacing or sawcutting are all activities that can be done in a stormwater safe way that will protect our waterways while allowing your business to thrive.



By following these simple tips, you can be sure that your paving and grinding operations will protect our waterways.

- Avoid paving during the wet season when feasible.
- Store materials away from drainage courses.
- Shovel or vacuum saw cut slurry from the site. Cover or barricade storm drains during saw cutting to contain the slurry.
- Collect, remove and recycle all broken asphalt.
- Don't allow sand or gravel placed over new asphalt to be washed into storm drains, streets or creeks.
- Train your employees and sub contractors in pollution prevention and reduction.



For more information, please call the **City of Long Beach Public Works Department** at **(562) 570-6383** or visit **www.longbeach.gov**

To report a spill, call the **Long Beach Dump Line** at **562-570-DUMP (562-570-3867)**.

CITY OF
LONG BEACH

411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

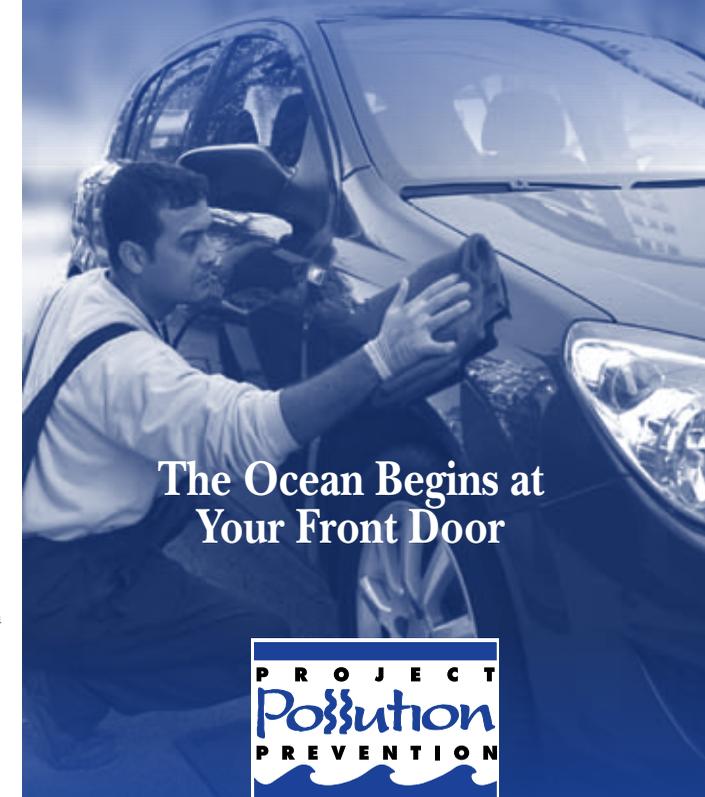
This brochure was created by the Orange County Stormwater Program and modified for the Greater Los Angeles Area.



Printed on Recycled Paper

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Compliance Best Management Practices for Mobile Businesses



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door



Compliance Best Management Practices for Mobile Businesses

Vehicle Washing:

When vehicles are cleaned, the following pollutants are often generated:



- **Heavy Metals**
 - copper, lead, nickel and zinc
- **Hydrocarbons**
 - oil & grease
- **Toxic Chemicals**
 - solvents, chlorinated compounds, glycols
- **Acids and alkalis**
- **Sediment**
 - dirt and sand

When vehicles are cleaned in driveways or on the street, chemicals and pollutants drain into the street, gutters and eventually into the storm drain system. It is preferable to use a waterless car wash whenever possible.

Power Washing:

Power washing of buildings generates dirt and other pollutants; waste water from this must also be properly disposed.



By law both mobile detailers and power washers must prevent all washwater and materials used from entering the storm drain system.

Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs)

IT'S THE LAW! The following BMPs will help you maintain compliance with regulations.

- Minimize water use.
- Vacuum or shake floor mats into a trash can.
- Sweep wash area to remove debris
- Use cleaning products as directed on their labels (Even biodegradable products impact our waterways).
- If feasible, wash vehicle on a vegetated or gravel surface where washwater can soak into the ground instead of on a paved surface where runoff is more likely.
- Use sand bags, straw wattles or berm mats to contain the washwater runoff so it does not drain down streets and gutters.
- Before the washing process starts, protect storm drain inlets by inserting a filter in front of any downstream storm drains so any washwater cannot enter. Remove the filter before leaving the site. Rinse the filter in a utility sink so the pollutants from the washwater captured in the filter go to the sewer system for treatment.
- Use a “wet-vac” to vacuum up the washwater for proper disposal.

Materials such as wet-vacuums, mats, sand bags and storm drain filters may be available at your local hardware or construction materials stores.

How to Dispose of Washwater Properly:

- **Option 1**
With property owner permission, direct the flow of washwater to a vegetated area with berms or sand bags so that it can soak into the ground. Washwater must completely soak into the vegetation before you leave the site*.
- **Option 2**
With property owner permission, use a “wet-vac” to vacuum up water and dispose in a sewer cleanout, utility sink, toilet, etc. Be careful not to discharge heavy debris, hazardous materials or anything that can clog the sink or toilet*.
- **Option 3**
Take washwater off site for proper disposal in the sanitary sewer system at your home or business location*.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Washwater and any waste material from engine cleaning must be treated with an OIL/WATER SEPARATOR before being disposed of at a centralized waste treatment facility.

**For more detailed information about the proper disposal of wastewater generated by mobile businesses and outdoor activity, please visit <https://h2oc.org/resources/pollution-prevention-for-businesses/mobile-businesses/>*

Carpet Cleaning:

Carpet cleaning services must adhere to the proper disposal of the washwater collected to prevent water pollution.

- Washwater from carpet cleaning activities should never be discharged into the street, gutter, driveway, parking lot or storm drain.
- Dispose of washwater properly as noted within this brochure.
- Employees must be trained to ensure they follow best management practices and understand stormwater discharge prohibitions.

