



# PROCESS & WASH WATER

## Storm Water Regulations

It is illegal to discharge process water and wash water into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

## Process & Wash Water

Wash water from processes such as high pressure washing, hosing, mopping, stone/tile cutting, cement mixing, rinsing equipment, water used to detect tire leaks, and other applications, have the potential to contribute to ocean pollution if proper methods are not used to control, contain, and capture the contaminated water appropriately. Never let contaminated process or wash water enter the storm drain system.

## Control, Contain, Capture, Dispose

You MUST have a plan to control, contain, capture and dispose of the water used when washing or processing materials to prevent it from entering the storm drain system, which includes nearby curb gutters, streets, alleys, ditches and storm drains.

**Control** Determine where the water will drain and how you will block, direct, and collect it, before starting the job. Obtain all necessary permits and authorizations for wastewater disposal.

**Contain** Never let polluted wash water or debris leave your work area. Isolate the flow using containment pools, berms, or booms to contain the water. Collect wash water in a permanent or temporary capture facility.

**Capture** Do not leave water on paved surfaces for evaporation. Use a wet-vacuum, vacuum boom or vacuum pump to collect the water and properly dispose of it. Sweep up any visible solids and sediments remaining.

**Dispose:** Wash water can be drained onto landscaped areas provided it can be absorbed by the soil without runoff or soil contamination. Wash water may also be collected and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system, such as an onsite sink, toilet, or lateral cleanout.



## Other Considerations

Use permanent or temporary containment/collection measures to direct or pump process or wash water to the sanitary sewer, collection container, or onsite landscaped or pervious area(s) to infiltrate or evaporate, without resulting in erosion or runoff to the storm drain system or any adjacent property.

If wastewater contains powders or solids (e.g., stone- or tile-cutting water, concrete slurry), pretreatment may be necessary to settle out solids before water may be reused or pumped to the sanitary sewer. Contact the Public Utilities Department (PUD). Call (858) 654-4100 for special conditions that may be required.

Wash areas shall not include any drains that connect to the storm drain system. Sewer drains within wash areas are allowable if appropriate permits have been obtained from the Public Utilities Department. Call (858) 654-4100 for details. Drains connected to dead sumps are allowable if proof of appropriate waste water disposal can be provided promptly upon City request. Construction of any new drains or rerouting of existing drainage systems will generally require a permit from the Development Services Department at (619) 446-5000 for details.

To dispose of wash water containing oil, paint, or other hazardous wastes, residents may make an appointment to drop it off at the Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility located at the Miramar Landfill entrance. To make an appointment, call (858) 694-7000. Businesses must dispose of the wash water in accordance with applicable regulations. Businesses should contact the County Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) at (858) 505-6880 for more information.

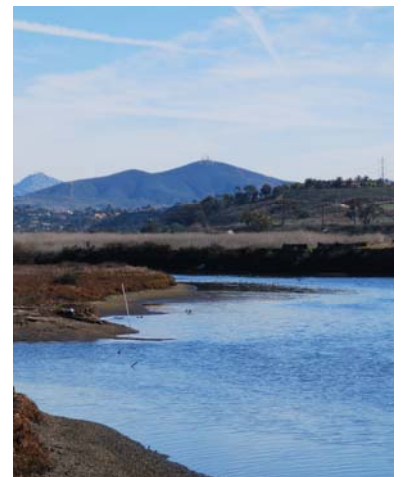
## Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and ultimately the ocean. Storm water often contains pollutants, including chemicals, trash, and automobile fluids, all of which pollute our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices (BMP's) as part of your daily clean up and maintenance routine.



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