

## A THREE-STEP APPROACH is required for the cleaning of outdoor surfaces

### 1 PERFORM DRY CLEANUP BEFORE WASHING

- Sweep or vacuum to pick up litter, debris, or saturated absorbents.
- Use absorbents (such as rags, absorbent mats or pads, cat litter, sand, or vermiculite) to pick up chemicals or oils.



Waste materials from dry cleanup, such as absorbents, paint chips, etc., often may be disposed of in the trash. Hazardous waste must be disposed of properly. More information is available at:

[www.kitsapgov.com/sw/](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw/)

### 2 AVOID USING SOAP OR CHEMICALS WHEN POSSIBLE

Using soap, detergent, or chemicals always requires the collection and proper disposal of wash water. Even products which claim to be biodegradable are harmful to the environment.

### 3 DISPOSE OF WASH WATER PROPERLY

#### OPTION 1

#### TO LANDSCAPING OR UNPAVED SURFACE.....when

- Discharge will not cause flooding or nuisance problems, or flow to a drain or waterway. If the soil is very dry, wet it down before discharging so that wash water will soak into the soil instead of running off.
- You have the owner's permission.

#### OPTION 2

#### TO THE STREET OR STORM DRAIN.....only if

- Cleaning is done with water only – no soap or other cleaning chemicals are used.
- Wash water is filtered through a catch basin fabric filter or “20 mesh” or finer screen. Dispose of captured material in the trash.



#### OPTION 3

#### TO THE SANITARY SEWER..... if using soap or cleaners

- Disposal into the sanitary sewer requires capturing the wash water, filtering it, and pumping or draining it to the sanitary sewer. Dispose of captured material in the trash. Storm drains may need to be blocked.
- Access to the sanitary sewer can be from indoor plumbing fixtures or from a sanitary sewer cleanout located on your property.

## BLOCKING STORM DRAINS & CAPTURING WASH WATER

- Capturing the wash water requires using a low spot or sump to collect the water. The water may then be pumped to a sanitary sewer drain or into a container for disposal into the sanitary sewer. The water may also be collected with a wet vacuum for later disposal to the sanitary sewer. Filter the water before disposal and place the captured material in the trash.
- Wash water may be collected in a catch basin by removing the grate, plugging

the outlet pipe, and placing a sump pump with a garden hose attached into the catch basin. As wash water drains to this lowest spot, pump to landscaping, a sanitary sewer line cleanout, or a container for later disposal to the sanitary sewer.

*You may be required to obtain a City permit if the catch basin is in the public right-of-way.*

- Since catch basins provide a natural low spot for water collection, the catch basin may be protected from the wash water entering by one of the following methods:



*Spill berms or sand bags and plastic sheeting can be used to create a barrier around storm drains.*



*Plugs or rubber mats can be used to seal storm drain openings.*



*Vacuum booms or containment pads can be used to keep wash water away from the storm drain.*

## EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Special materials such as sheets of absorbent, storm drain plugs & seals, small sump pumps and vacuum booms are available from many vendors, both in local contractor's supply stores and on-line.

# A clean and well-maintained community

is an important component to a high quality of life. These guidelines are prepared to help business and residential property owners who are interested in cleaning their sidewalks, buildings, and parking lots.

Since cleaning of these surfaces has the potential to discharge polluted wash water and non-stormwater to the storm drains if not properly conducted, the guidelines will help ensure that our creeks, waterways, and Liberty Bay are not adversely impacted by these cleaning activities.

**REPORT  
WATER POLLUTION**  
Call: Kitsap One  
360-337-5777



## OUTDOOR CLEANING and PRESSURE WASHING BASICS

✓ YES

Cleaning water which does NOT contain soap, detergent, or chemicals of any kind, may be discharged to a storm drain if a proper filter is placed over the drain and the remaining debris is disposed of properly.

✗ NO

Cleaning water which DOES contain soap, detergent, or chemicals must be prevented from entering the storm drain and collected and disposed of properly. Under no circumstances may cleaning water from vehicles or equipment be discharged into a storm drain, including cleaning water without chemicals or cleaning agents in it.

*Discharging pollutants, or allowing the discharge of pollutants, from your property into storm drains can result in fines or penalties.*



### CITY OF POULSBO

**Public Works Department**  
200 NE Moe St. / PO Box 2275  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

**Phone: 360-779-4078**

[www.cityofpoulsbo.com](http://www.cityofpoulsbo.com)

## CITY OF POULSBO



## Outdoor Cleaning and Pressure Washing

**Roofs  
Buildings  
Sidewalks  
Parking Lots**



**Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination**  
Poulsbo Municipal Code 13.18  
Ordinance 2009-03