

## Reporting Water Pollution

Report water pollution by contacting Kitsap1:

- [help@kitsap1.com](mailto:help@kitsap1.com)
- report online at SeeClickFix: <https://seeclickfix.com/poulsbo/report>
- or call (360)-337-5777



Have any other stormwater questions? Contact public works at:

360-779-4078  
[publicworks@cityofpoulsbo.com](mailto:publicworks@cityofpoulsbo.com)

## Special Consideration for Buildings: PCBs

PCBs are synthetic chemicals that are toxic to the environment and human health. PCBs were widely used in building materials between 1950-1980. Buildings built or renovated during this time may contain PCBs.

PCBs may be present in caulking, grout, joint materials, paints, sealants, lubricants, roofing, metal coatings or light ballasts.

If you are pressure washing a commercial, industrial, or multi-unit residential building built or renovated between 1950 and 1980, do not allow washwater to enter the storm system! Buildings that may contain PCBs should be tested before pressure washing or renovations.

Credits: Brochure is adapted from materials by Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) group and the WA Dept of Ecology

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Pressure Washing



City of Poulsbo  
Public Works  
Department

# Pressure Washing and Stormwater Pollution

- Washwater from washing practices can contain toxic pollutants
- When not cleaned up properly, washwater can enter the stormwater system and pollute stormwater runoff
- Stormwater runoff drains into Liberty Bay or streams in the City

**Poulsbo Municipal Code 13.18 prohibits the release of washwater containing pollutants into the storm system**

## Best Practices for Pressure Washing

Use this three-step approach for outdoor pressure washing to prevent an illicit discharge into the storm system.

### 1.0 Set-Up

- Identify where washwater will flow and temporarily cover storm drains
- Sweep or vacuum areas where water will flow to pick up litter and debris.  
Use absorbents (such as rags, absorbent mats, cat litter, sand, or vermiculite) to absorb chemicals or oils.

### 2.0 Contain Washwater

- Whenever possible, avoid using soap, detergent, or chemicals in pressure washing liquid. Even products that claim to be biodegradable are harmful to the environment.
- Washwater containing soaps or detergents must be collected.
- Catch basins are natural low spots for water collection. Protect catch basins using one of the following methods:



A. Create a barrier around storm drains using spill berms, sandbags, or plastic sheeting



B. Seal storm drains using a plug or rubber mat



C. Collect washwater using a vacuum boom or containment pad.

### 3.0 Washwater Disposal

- Washwater that contains solid waste or oil must be filtered prior to disposal.
- Only plain, clean water with no added chemicals or soaps can go into the storm drain.

## Disposal Options

Type of Washwater	Sanitary Sewer	Ground	Storm Drain
Water with no additives	✓	✓	✓
Water with soap	✓	✓	X
Water with dirt or sediment	✓*	✓*	X
Oily water treated with filter	✓*	X	X
Washwater containing hazardous chemicals**	Dispose using a hazardous waste vendor ONLY		

\* remove solids before disposal

\*\*includes any washwater that comes in contact with hazardous chemicals such as spill clean-up.