

A clean and well-maintained community

is an important component to a high quality of life. These guidelines are prepared to help businesses, property owners, and charity groups who are interested in charity carwashes.

Since cleaning of vehicles will 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 Sinclair Inlet are not adversely impacted by these cleaning activities.

REPORT WATER POLLUTION

Call: Kitsap One
360-337-5777



VEHICLE WASHING BASICS

✓ YES

Cleaning water which does NOT contain soap, detergent, or chemicals of any kind, may be discharged to a vegetated area to infiltrate into the ground.

✗ NO

Cleaning water which DOES contain soap, detergent, or chemicals must be prevented from entering the storm drain and collected and disposed of properly. Excess water draining thru a vegetated area must be directed to sewer. Under no circumstances may cleaning water from vehicles or equipment be discharged into a storm drain.

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



Vehicle Washing

At Home
and
At Fundraisers



City of Port Orchard

Public Works Department

216 Prospect Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366
Phone: 360-876-4991

www.cityofportorchard.us

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

Port Orchard Municipal Code 15.30

Ordinance 019-09

THREE OPTIONS FOR VEHICLE WASHING

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 greasy oil spills.



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 info at: www.kitsapgov.com/sw/hhomes.htm*)

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 creek. 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 SANITARY SEWER

- Disposal into the sanitary sewer requires capturing the wash water and pumping or draining it to the sanitary sewer. It may require blocking storm drains.
- Access to the sanitary sewer can be from indoor plumbing fixtures or from a sanitary sewer cleanout located on your property.

OPTION 3

TO A COMMERCIAL CAR WASH

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.
- 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.