

What About “Biodegradable” Soaps?

“Biodegradable” is a popular marketing term that can be misleading. Because a product is labeled as biodegradable or phosphate free doesn't mean that it is non-toxic. Some products are more toxic than others, but all are harmful to aquatic life. Soapy water entering the storm drain system can impact an aquatic environment within hours.

Enforcement

The City promptly responds to all complaints of illegal discharges to the storm drain system.

If you see anyone discharging anything directly or indirectly into the street, please call City Hall immediately at (562) 866-9771 as City staff needs to witness the violation in progress.

Mobile service providers and property owners may be held responsible for violations and costs associated with clean up, investigations and violations, fines or citations from the City, County, State and Federal regulatory agencies as well as any third party enforcement actions.

A Word About Business Licenses

Every company or person doing business or based in Lakewood is required to have a business license. This includes mobile services that may be based in another city but frequently work in the City of Lakewood. In addition to a license, all mobile services that wash (vehicles, carpets, roofs, animals, etc..) must complete a Public Works questionnaire and may be required to provide a demonstration prior to obtaining a business license. For more information on to obtain a business license contact City of Lakewood Administrative Services at (562) 866-9771 ext. 2600.



City of Lakewood

For more information or assistance, please call the

City of Lakewood's

Public Works Department

(562) 866-9771 extension 2500.

**City of
Lakewood**

**Best
Management
Practices**

Power Washing



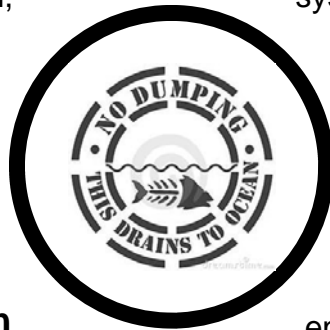
**Mobile
and
Surface
Cleaning**

What is Power Washing?

Power Washing is any activity that uses a water pressure system, including steam cleaning, to clean vehicles, equipment, sidewalks, buildings, roofs, dumpsters, or other impervious surfaces (with or without detergents or chemical additives).

What's the Problem with Power Washing?

Did you know that storm drains

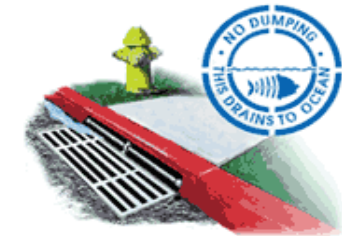


Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

are **NOT** connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Wash water from power washing activities may contain significant quantities of oil and grease, chemicals, dirt and detergents that could end up in our gutters, streets, channels and eventually the ocean. Disposal of these materials

into gutters, streets and storm drains causes serious harm to aquatic life and the environment—and is **PROHIBITED** by law.

Remember...The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door!



What are Best Management Practices (BMP's)?

Best Management Practices or BMPs are procedures that help prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep our storm drains clean.

Use Dry Clean-up Methods

- Instead of pressure washing, determine what alternative dry methods are available.
- Use mops, brooms, rags or wire brushes to clean pavement, buildings and equipment as much as possible.
- Use vacuums or other machines to remove and collect loose debris before applying water.

Location, Location, Location!

- Prior to any washing, block or cover all storm drains with an impervious barrier such as sandbags or berms, or seal the storm drain with plugs or rubber mats.
- Wash all vehicles and equipment on grassy or gravel areas so the wash water can seep into the ground.
- Create a containment area with berms to keep wash water contained.
- Check that wash water is not leaking through and add more berms or barriers to contain the wash water.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

- Do not wash equipment or vehicles outdoors on saturated ground or on days when rain is probable.

- Pump or vacuum up all wash water in the contained area.
- With property owners permission, pump or pour the wash water to the sanitary sewer through an interior building drain, sink, or private sewer clean-out. **Opening and using a City manhole to dispose of wastewater is prohibited.**
- Sediments and other solids that remain on the ground should be swept or vacuumed up immediately before they get washed into the storm system.

