

# Clean Water

At A Glance

Pressure  
Washing

## Pressure Washing

Pressure washing surfaces such as driveways and homes can release contaminants into local waterways. Motor oil, soap, fertilizers, pet waste, and other contaminants are picked up by washwater and carried to storm drains. Once in the stormwater system, this polluted water travels untreated to the Willamette and McKenzie rivers or into groundwater, which can affect drinking water resources.

### How does this impact our Rivers?

Sediment makes water cloudy and hinders aquatic plant growth. Cloudy water can clog fish gills, preventing respiration.

Soaps, even biodegradable varieties, can cause low oxygen levels in water. High nutrient levels occur in waterways from inputs of pet waste, fertilizer, and soaps. This can trigger algae blooms, creating deadly low-oxygen conditions for fish and other aquatic life.

Household hazardous wastes (like pesticides, paints, solvents, and auto fluids) can poison aquatic life. Animals and people can become sick or die after consuming polluted water or fish.

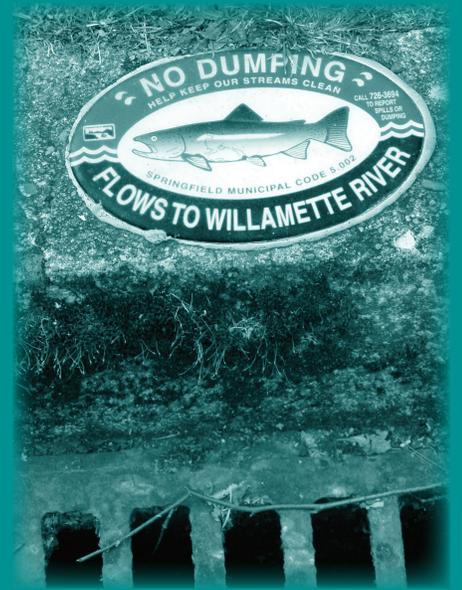
Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas creating health hazards, making waterway closures necessary.

### Regulations

Polluted discharges from any property that enter the storm drain system are considered illicit discharge violations City Code 4.372. It is the property owner's responsibility to prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater system, even if someone else is hired to do the work.

### Report Water Pollution

Help keep our local rivers healthy and report water pollution. Call the water pollution reporting hotline at 541.726.3694 or email [dpw@springfield-or.gov](mailto:dpw@springfield-or.gov)



For more information on how to protect local rivers, go to [springfieldstreams.org](http://springfieldstreams.org) or email our team at [WaterResources@springfield-or.gov](mailto:WaterResources@springfield-or.gov)



# Prevent Pollution with Best Management Practices

Use the following steps to prevent polluted discharges from leaving your property. Remember to make sure contractors also use safe practices. Remember: do not use soaps, detergents, chemicals, steam, or heated water while pressure washing if water runoff enters the stormwater system. If water will not enter the stormwater system, use biodegradable soap sparingly and only when necessary.



## Paved Areas and Sidewalks

**SWEEP:** Use dry clean-up methods first, such as sweeping, vacuuming, or flowing into piles. Dispose of debris in the trash.

**ABSORB:** Use absorbents (cat litter, sawdust, or sand) to clean up oily spots or other fluids before washing.

**BLOCK:** Block the gutter or storm drain with a boom or absorbent sock (see picture) to filter runoff. If possible, direct flow to a lawn area where there is no runoff to the stormwater system. After washing, clean up debris captured by the sock and dispose of it in the garbage.

## Building Surfaces, Wood Decks, etc.

Use the 3 steps above. (Sweep, absorb, and block)

Use tarps or sheets to collect debris and dispose of properly. Keep in mind that paint on older buildings may contain lead and should be disposed of as hazardous waste. Call Lane County Waste Management for details at 541.682.4120.

Use a shop-vac to collect washwater, if possible.



## Vehicle Washing

Businesses washing new or used vehicles awaiting sale and businesses washing fewer than eight vehicles per week are allowed as long as soaps, detergents, heat, or chemicals are NOT used.

Cleaning is restricted to the exterior of vehicle only and is never allowed for engines, transmissions, or undercarriages if water flows to the stormwater system. Wash these at a commercial car wash.

Businesses exceeding the above standards must apply for a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Wash Water Permit. Contact the DEQ at 503.229.5696.

Vehicle washing by private residents is allowed, but it is recommended that vehicles be washed on a pervious area, such as a lawn, with biodegradable soap used sparingly or not at all.

Non-profit fundraising groups are allowed to wash once a month and must use the DEQ's recommended BMPs for washing activities. Call 541.726.3694 for BMP information and to borrow a free Fish-Friendly Car Wash Kit from the City of Springfield.

For more information on stormwater pollution prevention practices contact the following:  
Stormwater regulations for the City of Springfield.....541.726.3694  
Permission to discharge to the wastewater system in Springfield.....541.726.3693