



Stormwater drain markers remind us that we are all connected to our surrounding environment.

# Vehicle Washing

Protect Our Aquatic Environment by Preventing Stormwater Contamination

## Spill Prevention

- Spills of hazardous materials must be cleaned up immediately. Spills should be contained to prevent them from entering the stormwater drainage system.
- Develop a spill response plan which includes a spill response kit equipped with absorbent materials that are appropriate for wastes produced by your facility. Train employees how to use the spill response plan as well as in proper vehicle washing, chemical usage and waste handling techniques.
- Train employees about best management practices, storm water discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements. Ensure all employees are aware of their important role in preventing stormwater contamination.

In the event of an accidental spill to the environment immediately contact the **Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)** at **1.800.663.3456**, in the event that the chemical is flammable, toxic, corrosive or has other hazardous properties call the **Surrey Fire Department** immediately at **911**.

Any person responsible for stormwater drainage system contamination may be held liable under the following environmental legislation:

- Federal Fisheries Act
- BC Hazardous Waste Regulation
- BC Environmental Management Act
- Surrey By-law No. 16610

## For more information

RCBC Recycle Hotline  
**604.732.9253**

City of Surrey  
Plumbing Section  
**604.591.4245**

City of Surrey,  
Drainage & Environment Section  
**604.591.4321**

Metro Vancouver  
Source Control  
**604.436.6777**

Surrey Fire Department  
**604.543.6760**

If you witness a spill or chemicals being washed into a stormwater drainage, please contact the City of Surrey's Engineering Department at **604-590.7226**, after 4:30pm at **604-591-4431**.







## Vehicle Washing

Auto washing, steam cleaning and detailing operations use a number of products and solutions to clean, deodorize and restore luster to various components of cars, trucks and other equipment. Wastewater from these cleaning operations can contain sediments, chemicals, detergents, oils, greases, excessive pH levels and other contaminants, all of which can be harmful to the environment. In Surrey the stormwater drainage system discharges untreated, into local creeks and streams. There are over 1500 km of open creeks and streams in Surrey. These creeks form an important network of watercourses, which provide natural habitat for salmon, trout, and other aquatic life.

As a vehicle owner or auto washer, you play a vital role in protecting the environment. Pollution is generated from both the vehicle being washed (sediment, oils, etc.) and by the cleaning method involved (solvent, detergent, etc.). While it may seem that pollution from your actions is minor, however the effect of chemicals and runoff from multiple businesses and residences can add up to detrimental effects to our local creeks.

## Best Management Practices

To prevent contaminants from entering the stormwater drainage system and ultimately our creeks and streams, please observe the following practices:

- For large companies or commercial operations, establish a designated, bermed wash area where wash water is directed to an isolated sump connected to the sanitary sewer system or a holding tank for collection by a disposal company.
- Install an oil-water separator and sediment trap before discharging to the sanitary sewer system or holding tank. Have the oil-water separator and sediment trap maintained regularly.
- Prevent clean stormwater from running into the wash area by building a portable or permanent roof over the wash area.
- For residential car washing, wash vehicles on a grass or gravel area. When washing on pavement, direct wash water away from stormwater drains to a landscaped, grass or gravel area.
- Biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents and cleaners are a good option but they still must not be allowed to enter the stormwater drainage system.
- Wastewater from radiator flushing, steam cleaning, engine cleaning, parts washing, or pressure washing may result in heavy loads of sediments, oils and grease and must be disposed of to an approved connection to the sanitary sewer and take place in areas where there is no risk of spills to the stormwater drainage system.
- Vehicles, tools and equipment must not be washed in areas where the wastewater flows directly to the stormwater drainage system.
- Cleaning and deodorizing chemicals, polishing compounds and solvents must be stored in a secure area where spills will be contained.
- Old cleaning, deodorizing and polishing chemicals may require special disposal. Follow the manufacturer's directions for disposal or to find locations for disposal contact the RCBC Recycling Hotline.

