

URBAN RUNOFF—STORM WATER PROGRAM FACT SHEET For AUTO WASHING GUIDELINES

Non-storm discharges to the storm drain system, including all nonresidential car washing, are prohibited by city ordinances in Alameda County. Businesses are expected to make every effort to comply with the ordinance and eliminate illicit discharges. However, we recognize that some businesses cannot effectively eliminate all discharges or transfer the discharges to the sanitary sewer without significant capital investment and/or relocation of the operation. The following guidelines were written to help businesses implement appropriate control measures. Interim measures designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants until such time as all storm drain discharges can be eliminated, may be approved if your business is on a time schedule to achieve compliance (installing a wash pad, purchasing recycle equipment, etc.). **The requirements and fees in this document do not apply to commercial car washes.**



1. Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be implemented in the following order:

- Eliminate discharges completely where possible.
- Minimize the generation of pollutants and recycle or discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer with approval of Union Sanitary District.
- Where above options are not feasible, discharges to the storm drain only after eliminating pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.

2. Wash waters from steam cleaning of vehicle, engines or parts may never be discharged to the storm drain. Wash water must be discharged to the sanitary sewer after appropriate pretreatment (underground interceptor or above ground treatment system). If an acid is used in steam cleaning, the wash water must go through a neutralization treatment prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer or be treated as a hazardous waste.

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3. Wash water from auto detailing or other operations using soap or detergent must be recycled or discharged to the sanitary sewer after appropriate pretreatment. As an interim measure, wash water can be collected by plugging the storm drain and pumping it directly to the sanitary sewer with the approval of Union Sanitary District. This also applies to nonprofit car washes.
4. In lieu of number 2 and 3 above, vehicles can be washed at a properly equipped commercial car wash. This may be the best option if you wash less than ten cars a week, or can serve as an interim control while you investigate other options.
5. Water, **with no soap or cleaning agents added**, which is used to rinse off relatively clean cars after they are spot cleaned to remove oil and grease, can be discharged to the storm drain if no reasonable alternative exists.
6. If pollutant discharges to the storm drain cannot be controlled through Best Management Practices your business will be required to install appropriate pretreatment equipment (i.e. oil-water separator, recycling treatment system) and discharge to the sanitary sewer after paying applicable fees.
7. Wash water from mobile wash operations, which contains soap, cleaning agents, oil or grease, or other pollutants of concern, cannot be discharged to the storm drain. The water must be collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer with the approval of Union Sanitary District. It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure that wash water generated at his/her site is disposed of properly.
8. Conditional approval to discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer will be granted only after a review of the specific operation, types of pollutants likely to be present, proposed pretreatment, etc. For information, call Union Sanitary District's at (510) 790-0100, extension 204.
9. A construction permit from Union Sanitary District is required in order to connect a wash pad or other vehicle washing area to the sanitary sewer. Standard specifications for wash pads and interceptors, as well as information on permits and fees, are available by calling Union Sanitary District's Customer Service at (510) 790-0100, extension 263.

Union Sanitary District
5072 Benson Road

Union City, CA 94587 p 510-477-7500

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.

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How are business facilities contributing to urban runoff pollution?

Studies conducted by the EPA have identified urban runoff as an important source of water pollution nationwide. Runoff from industrial and commercial businesses is one of the major contributors to urban runoff pollution. Pollutants originate from parking lots, driveways, vehicle and heavy equipment repair areas; materials spilled onto loading, unloading, or other materials handling areas; storage of raw and/or processed materials outdoors; litter; etc.



For more information on the urban runoff pollution control program in your area, contact:

City of Fremont	(510) 494-4700
City of Newark	(510) 790-7207
City of Union City	(510) 471-3232
Union Sanitary District	(510) 790-0100 Extension 204

Minimum connection fees for wash pads with interceptors, as of November 2000:

- Construction permit fee \$2,618.
- Construction inspection fee 4% of sewer construction cost.
- Plan check fee 2.1% of sewer construction cost.

Recycling treatment system: No construction fees required in most cases.