



BEST PRACTICES: SURFACE WASHING

Surface washing can protect waterways if done correctly. However, waste from surfaces can contain oil, grease, and chemicals. If wastewater is not collected properly, this pollution will run into a storm drain. This water is not treated or cleaned before it enters rivers and lakes.

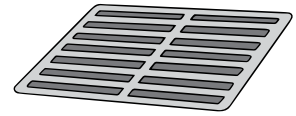


01. Preparing

- Locate all drains near the site you will be cleaning.
- Gather necessary equipment and training for potential pollutants.
- Plan for disposal of wastewater.



- Wastewater can be reduced by picking up litter, sweeping up dirt and debris, and using an absorbent to remove oil or grease.



02. Containment:

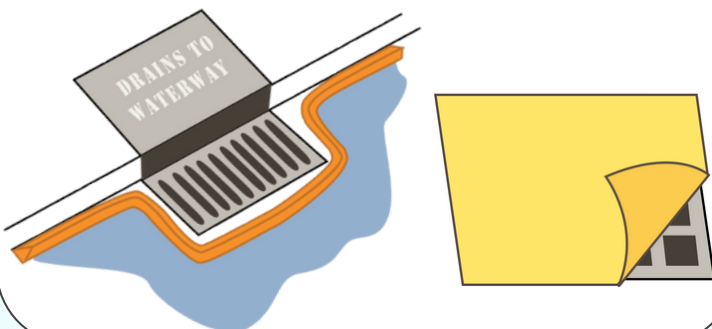
Containment keeps wastewater from entering storm drains or streams and allows the water to be collected and disposed. This can be done several ways.

1. Let the wastewater flow to a low point and to collect it.

- Block or plug any storm drains in the path of the water. Some methods are shown below.

2. Use a tarp, container, or tray to collect waste at the wash site.

- Useful for smaller jobs like car washing.



03. Collection

Contained wastewater can be collected with a wet vacuum, sump pump, or vacuum pump.

Pollutants cannot be left on paved surfaces as they will end up in waterways.



04. Disposal:

1. Sanitary sewer system

- Check local Water Management guidelines

2. A private treatment company

3. Disposal to a planted area

- Wastewater without pollutants may be discharged to a landscaped area if the area is able to absorb all the water.

***Disposal still requires wastewater is pretreated**

Report illicit discharges to Durham County Stormwater at stormwater@dconc.gov or 919-560-7008