

VEHICLE WASHING

Vehicle washing on impervious surfaces or even lawns sends polluted water directly into the storm drain. This image represents how washing vehicles in the wrong location, such as a driveway or street, is like washing your car directly on a stream.

When washing your vehicle, take them to a



commercial car wash facility. Wash water from vehicle washing can contain a variety of pollutants, including detergents, oils and grease, and dirt.

Municipal vehicles including fire trucks, emergency vehicles, and road maintenance fleets typically have sediment, oil, or other particles on them that end up in bodies of water when they are washed or blow off the vehicles. Soap, detergents, and vehicle/equipment cleaners are often used in the washing process. These pollutants, especially detergents, can have harmful effects on bodies of water.

LANDSCAPING AND LAWN CARE

Landscaping and lawn care practices have a significant impact on stormwater runoff. Conventional lawn care practices often include;

- Watering too frequently,
- Over fertilizing,
- Use of pesticides/herbicides

to rid lawn of unwanted pests and nuisance or invasive plants.

Excess nutrients and pesticides wash away during rain events or when lawns are over watered.

The recommended practices for stormwater-friendly lawn care include:

- Choose native plants. Native plants have deeper, thicker root systems than grass and are acclimated to our climate.
- Test Soils. Soils often have the correct amount of nutrients and pH without needing more fertilizer. If fertilizer is needed, only use enough to correct the nutrient deficiencies.
- Mixing compost with soil during planting.
- Limit grass areas in favor of natural landscaping, or pervious surfaces.
- Lay mulch at least three inches thick. This keeps soil moist, prevents weeds, and prevents soil erosion.
- Regular Maintenance.
- Use Organic alternatives when fertilizers or pesticides are necessary.
- FERTILIZERS should not be used within five feet of pavement, with 25 feet of a catch basin, and within 50 feet of a stream.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As part of the federal Environmental Protection Act, the City of Panama is required to provide for the operation of most municipal stormwater drains, ponds, etc.)

In addition, they also have a responsibility to address any with any potential to cause environmental damage. Included in the definition of stormwater are any land disturbing activities.

The City is required to participate in the National Stormwater Inspection program to ensure that the City do not negatively impact water quality.

As part of compliance with the Clean Water Act, the City has a detailed Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) which outlines the City's stormwater management program over the 5 year period.

The City of Panama City has implemented a stormwater management program that includes the best management practices to reduce the impact of water quality impairment. The City installs storm drain systems, maintains storm drain channels and provides for stormwater runoff and more.

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CHLORINATED WATER DISPOSAL

Municipal swimming pools should be drained into sanitary sewers or allowed to sit for at least one to two weeks without adding chlorine or chemicals before draining into storm drains or lawns. Must be dechlorinated water.

Tips for residents:

- Allow water to infiltrate through grass, bio-retention area or swale, or permeable surface rather than driveways or streets.
- Keep water in the pool or hot tub for at least two (2) weeks without adding more chlorine. This allows the chlorine to dissipate and solids to settle.
- Do Not dump solids or chlorine with pool water.
- Do Not discharge on others' property.
- Follow all local ordinances.



TIPS TO REDUCE HOUSEHOLD WATER POLLUTION

- Keep your car in good repair. Leaking vehicle oil and chemicals can be transported into local waterways with stormwater runoff.
- Recycle used oil and antifreeze at service stations and other recycling centers. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches.
- Used vehicle batteries should be disposed of at appropriate recycling centers and not as general refuse. Spent vehicle batteries contain acid and heavy metals and therefore need to be disposed of properly.
- Perform vehicle maintenance inside or under cover whenever possible. Immediately clean up spilled vehicle fluids, solvents and other chemicals to prevent water and soil contamination.
- Be aware that many chemicals commonly used around the home are toxic. Use non-toxic substitutes and low-phosphate or phosphate-free detergents whenever possible.
- Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground or down the drain. Soil cannot purify most chemicals, and they could eventually contaminate runoff.



- One quart of oil can pollute one million gallons of water.
- DO NOT store batteries in areas that can be exposed to water runoff.
- Car wash facilities should be connected into sewer systems. If not, wash water is discharged back into the storm drain.
- Keep storm gutters clean of leaves and yard debris. Excess vegetative matter can clog storm systems.

Clean up pet waste. Pet waste can be a source of pathogens in our stormwater.

IMPROPER WASTE DISPOSAL

