

# BUSINESS STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

## Best Management Practices: Drain and Sewer Cleaning

Rain that falls on streets and parking lots, also known as stormwater, can carry oils, detergents, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals from the ground and into storm drains that lead straight to lakes, streams, or Puget Sound. This can pose health and safety risks to our community and environment.

As a drain and sewer cleaning and repair business, it's your duty to prevent debris and spills from polluting our waters.

**Take action to prevent pollution at its source to keep our waters safe and clean!**



Learn more about pollution prevention requirements in [Seattle's Stormwater Code](#).

## Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Drain and Sewer Cleaning Businesses



Most –about two-thirds– of the City connects to the separated drainage system, which is not treated before being released to creeks, lakes and Puget Sound. Prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater and the drainage system in the first place by following these rules:

- ✓ Do not allow wastewater or solids/sediment from side sewer cleaning, flushing or repair to enter the street or catch basins – the discharge contains pollutants and is considered a spill.
- ✓ Any time you clear a blockage in a pipe, you must collect the flushed solids and liquids; capture and direct it to sanitary sewer pipes, not the street or drainage pipes. This applies to sanitary and drainage pipes.
- ✓ When cleaning and flushing potable water lines and tanks (such as with chlorine), you must dechlorinate (to less than 0.1 mg/L of chlorine) and pH-adjust the wastewater generated as necessary. Dechlorination tabs are a common tool. Dispose of the wastewater to the sanitary sewer. (Manual Volume 4, BMP 41/Ecology BMP S441)

See the [next page](#) for general BMPs to prevent stormwater pollution. ►



## General Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are processes that businesses, individuals and responsible parties in Seattle should implement to prevent pollutants from contaminating stormwater runoff and entering receiving waters. General BMPs are required for all real property, and additional BMPs are recommended for specific pollution generating activities.



### Find and Protect Onsite Storm Drains

Find where water will flow from your work site and protect your storm drains to prevent pollutants from entering local waterways. Best practice is to move activities that could release oils, chemicals, detergents, or other pollutants away from locations that could lead to a storm drain, and properly contain pollutants.



### Train Employees

Ensure your staff are properly trained in the following key practices:

- How to safely store and use chemicals and hazardous materials so they do not pollute the ground, drains, or waterways
- What can be washed and where so that soap, soil, oil, and other chemicals do not enter storm drains
- How to create a spill plan and clean all spills promptly



Order a  
**FREE**  
spill kit

### Prevent and Clean Up Spills

Create and follow your spill prevention and clean-up plan. A spill can be a one-time event, a continuous leak, or frequent small spills. All types must be addressed.

**If you have a spill, call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 386-1800.**



### Dispose of Fluids and Wastes

Responsible parties must properly dispose of solid and liquid waste, as well as contaminated stormwater and street waste. Depending on the type of waste, there are a few options for disposal:

1. Permitted centralized waste treatment facilities
2. Municipal solid waste and recycling facilities
3. Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities

**CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL LIST OF POLLUTION PREVENTION BMPs**

### Language Support

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

如需口譯服務請電 206-684-3000。

통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000번으로 전화해 주십시오.

Wixii adeegyada turjubaanka fadlan wac 206-684-3000.

Para servicios de traducción, por favor, llame al 206-684-3000.

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.

Muốn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch xin gọi số 206-684-3000.

Email: [greenbusiness@seattle.gov](mailto:greenbusiness@seattle.gov)