Auto Detailers

Auto detailers work with many types of products that can contain pollutants. If spilled or disposed of improperly these contaminants can pollute our local creeks.

The most important thing to know about sewers and storm drains is that they are two different systems. When soapy water from vehicle cleaning flows off your property, it flows directly into the storm water drainage system, unless you collect it. The storm water drainage system consists of street gutters, inlets, catch basins, and ditches. Many people believe that storm water gets “cleaned” but it does not. Rather, it flows directly into our creeks, rivers, lakes, and the ocean without any treatment at all. Only the water that goes down a sink, toilet, or another inside drain flows to the wastewater treatment plant. Toxic material cannot be discharged to either system.

As a valued member of the local business community, we know that you are invested in protecting the quality of life that your customers, members of the community, and visitors enjoy.

Do It Right

- Sweep the pavement where autos will be cleaned before you start.
- Make sure wash water doesn’t get into the storm drain.
- Block the storm drain inlet. You can use plastic to wrap the grate, plug the pipe exiting the inlet, or cover the opening with a specialized pad.
- Use a berm in the gutter to pond up the water.
- Use a specially designed mobile wash pad/containment pool to contain the wash water.
- Collect the water using a sump pump or a wet/dry shopvac.
- Do a final rinse of any wet pavement with clean water. Make sure this water is collected.
- Dispose of wash and rinse water to the sewer. Additional treatment or permits may be required. Check with Environmental Compliance at (707) 543-3369 before discharging.
- This procedure applies to the use of other cleaning products such as window cleaners and tire cleaners.
- Engine cleaning wash water must be discharged through an oil/water separator. A Wastewater Discharge Permit will be required if you have an oil/water separator. For a Wastewater Discharge Permit Application go to www.srcity.org/autoapp.

Are You Ready to Respond to a Spill?

- Have a simple written plan.
- Train your employees on clean up procedures.
- Have your spill cleanup materials on hand.
- Know when to call it in.
- Have Material Safety Data Sheets for any products you are using.
- Report hazardous spills at (707) 528-5151 or 911.

Santa Rosa Contact Information

- To report a spill call (707) 543-3800.
- To report a hazardous material spill, such as oil or gasoline products call 911 or (707) 528-5151.
- To get information on proper disposal of materials call (707) 565-DESK (3375), or go to www.recyclenow.org.
- For help implementing these measures or if you have questions about storm water, call (707) 543-4200.
- For more information about obtaining a Wastewater Discharge Permit, contact Environmental Compliance at (707) 543-3369 or visit www.srcity.org/envcompliance

Releasing pollutants into the storm drain system or a waterway violates the City of Santa Rosa’s Storm Water and Sanitary Sewer Use Ordinances.
Contact information for businesses outside of Santa Rosa:

City of Cloverdale
Public Works Department
(707) 894-1792

City of Cotati
Public Works/Engineering Department
http://www.ci.cotati.ca.us/sections/departments/pw-storm-water.cfm
During Business Hours: (707)665-3637
After Hours: (707)792-4611
Businesses in Cotati seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.

City of Fort Bragg
http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm
(707) 964-5379

City of Healdsburg
Public Works Department
(707) 431-3346

City of Rohnert Park
Public Works Department – Public Safety Dispatch
(707) 588-3300
Businesses in Rohnert Park seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.

City of Sebastopol
Public Works Department for reporting issues
Engineering Department for questions
http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/page/water-wastewater-storm-water
During Business Hours: (707) 823-5331
After Hours: (707) 829-4400
Businesses in Sebastopol seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.

City of Ukiah
Public Works Department
http://www.cityofukiah.com/?p=173
(707) 463-6296

Mendocino County
http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm

Sonoma County
PRMD Engineering
http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-contact.htm
http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-spill.htm
During Business Hours: (707) 565-2502
After Hours: (707) 573-1365

Sonoma County Water Agency
Public Works Department – Engineering Division
http://www.scwa.ca.gov/storm-water/
During Business Hours: (707) 521-1865

Town of Windsor
(707) 838-5340