

# A More Green Way to Clean – Pressure Washing and the Environment



It only takes a garden hose to wash pollutants off of your driveway...**imagine what 4000 psi can do!** Pressure washing can flush oils, automobile fluids, chemicals, paint, grease, pet waste and household cleaning products into storm drains and into local waterways. This type of pollution is referred to as **stormwater pollution** - the result of water picking up contaminants left out on the landscape, becoming polluted stormwater, and emptying into storm drains that lead to our local waterways. **This polluted stormwater is not treated before entering the local rivers, lakes, and ocean.** Many use pressure washing to clean driveways and homes, and while this may save your elbows, there are many ways to also help save water quality when pressure washing.



## How you can help:

- Don't water broom dirt and debris down the storm drain - pick it up or remove it before washing and place in the trash.
- Avoid chemical detergents and solvents that pollute local waterways.
- If you use soap, choose phosphorus-free or biodegradable soaps that won't promote unsightly algae growth that chokes waterways.
- Use up-to-date pressure washing and spill containment technology to prevent stormwater pollution. Storm drain seals and guards and curb inlet guards and berms are up-front expenses that will pay for themselves over time through marketing your business as environmentally friendly and avoiding costly fines for illegally discharging to storm drains.



When possible, professional pressure washing companies that use proper equipment, non-toxic cleaners and phosphorus-free biodegradable soaps, and materials to protect storm drains from illegal discharges should always be contacted. **YOU** can be a solution to stormwater pollution.

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