

BEST PRACTICES



5 Spring Cleaning Tips

Are you feeling the buzz to start cleaning this spring? Here are 5 tips to make sure your cleaning activities don't create pollution that can wash into our streams, lakes or Puget Sound.

1. Sweep driveways and sidewalks to remove dirt and debris (instead of pressure washing or using a hose). Dispose of dirt and debris in the garbage.
2. Cover the ground with tarps before pressure washing your house to capture paint flakes. Direct dirty wash water into a grassy or graveled area to keep debris from washing into storm drains.

If your home was built before 1978, test your paint first before pressure washing or repainting to find out if it contains lead or heavy metals.

3. Cleaning out your garage or cabinet? Take old paint, thinners, motor oils, chemicals and cleaning supplies to Thurston County's HazoHouse to dispose of for FREE! For more information, call (360) 867-2912.
4. When cleaning your carpet, make sure to dispose of the dirty wash water properly.
 - If on a sewer system, filter out the debris and flush dirty wash water.
 - If on a septic system, filter and spread dirty water over a landscaped area. Place filtered debris into the trash.
 - If contracting a service, ask the company about their wash water disposal policy.
5. To clean outdoor windows, wash with a sponge and warm water mixed with a few drops of soap and vinegar. Rinse and squeegee dry.



Report spills! If you see something, report it.

If you see someone dumping anything into a storm drain or drainage ditch, or if you find a small-scale spill, call the City or County 24-hour hotline. Feel free to remain anonymous.

Olympia: 360-753-8333

Lacey: 360-491-5644

Tumwater: 360-754-4150

Thurston County: 360-867-2099

If you find a large-scale spill, call the Washington Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6300. For life-threatening spill emergencies, call 911.

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