

CLEAN WATER BEGINS AT HOME



When you wash your building, driveway, sidewalk or street the wash water then flows to a storm drain or ditch, and then to the nearest stream, lake, or river. Soaps and detergents, even biodegradable ones, can have immediate and long-term effects on fish, frogs, and insects living in waterbodies. The wash water also contains fine sediment which can choke our rivers and streams and clog the storm sewer system. Here are a few ways you can make your washing activities water friendly.

- Sweep instead of washing. If you must wash be sure to sweep the area to clean up dirt, leaves, trash, and materials that may flow into the storm drain with your wash water. This helps reduce maintenance costs and protects water quality as well.
- Don't wash your building, driveway, sidewalk or street if rain is expected.
- Reduce the amount you wash your building, driveway, sidewalk or street as much as possible.
- Make sure the used water drains to a vegetated area where it can soak into the ground.
- Use a nozzle on your hose to save water

For more information call (360) 342-5070 or check out our website at www.cityofbg.org

STREET AND BUILDING WASHING

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

