

# WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLEAN, HEALTHY WATERWAYS



## GOOD TO KNOW

Boarding, grooming, and other pet care activities often involve cleaning products and waste materials that, if spilled or disposed of improperly, can pollute our local waterways and harm the public.

### Where the Water Flows

The sanitary sewer and stormwater systems are separate systems designed to manage water in different ways. The sanitary sewer system carries wastewater to a treatment plant whereas the stormwater system carries rain and runoff directly to local waterways, picking up dirt, debris, pet waste, soaps, etc. along its path.

### The Source of Stormwater Pollution

- **Pet waste is not fertilizer.** It is filled with harmful nutrients and bacteria that, if not disposed of properly, can be toxic to people, pets, and wildlife.
- Soaps and cleaning products (even those labeled "biodegradable") are toxic to aquatic life.
- Fur/hair or other solids in wash water can cause blockages in the sanitary sewer system.

### The Impact of Stormwater Pollution

- Cleaning products and pet waste contaminate local waterways, making them unsafe.
- Dirt from wash water clouds waterways preventing sunlight from reaching the underwater grasses that serve as habitat for aquatic life, including the Chesapeake Bay blue crab.

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# GOOD TO DO

## Pet Service Best Management Practices



### Storage & Washing

- ✓ Make sure all cleaning products are stored safely and securely.
- ✓ Always drain wash water into the sanitary sewer system; never let it flow to the street, storm drain, or landscape.
- ✓ Filter wash water through a wire mesh strainer to remove solids; dispose of them in the trash.
- ✓ Wash equipment in areas that drain to proper waste facilities.
- ✓ Mobile operations should collect wash water in a holding tank for disposal later into the sanitary sewer system.



### Outdoor Practices

- ✓ Pick up pet waste promptly.
- ✓ When hosing down hard surfaces such as outdoor kennels and runs, make sure all water runoff goes into the sanitary sewer system, not into a storm drain.
- ✓ Drain pet recreation pools into the sanitary sewer system.
- ✓ When backwashing pool filters, make sure any solid material is contained and disposed of in the trash.



### Spills & Leaks

- ✓ Keep equipment, vehicles, and hoses in good repair to eliminate leaks.
- ✓ Educate employees on how to properly handle cleaning products.
- ✓ Promptly clean up all spills and leaks when they occur.
- ✓ Have a written spill cleanup plan accessible and train employees on procedures, equipment use, and proper waste disposal.
- ✓ If spills accidentally reach the storm drain, immediately call the fire marshall or non-emergency police number.

**Following best management practices protects our waterways.**

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