

Car detailers and Assise® vehicle wash mats

Give your business a cleaner and greener edge

To reduce the risk of pollution from your car detailing activities, follow the tips below to make sure your business complies with environmental practices and reduce the risk of a fine

- § Never allow wash water to flow into the gutter or stormwater drain
- § Never dispose of wash water to dry streambeds or where it can flow into wetlands or waterways
- § Only clean water should be allowed to run into gutters or stormwater drains

Be aware of your legal responsibilities

Even if your business is mobile without fixed premises, a range of legislation to applies

- § On the spot fines of up to \$1,500 could be issued if you put anything other than clean water down the stormwater drain
- § Businesses using chemicals should be aware of the *Dangerous Goods Act 1975*. Make sure you're aware of the legal requirements before using, storing, transporting and disposing of hazardous materials (such as chemicals)

Where to wash?

Before you start work, determine how you are going to dispose of the water. Vehicles should be washed

- § On the ground where the wash water can soak in (careful not to block the footpath)
- § On a wash mat where the water can be collected for disposal
- § On a driveway only if the water is able to drain to a garden or grassy area

Wash mats

Wash mats are essential for washing vehicles in areas where there is a risk of wash water flowing into the gutter or stormwater drain

These are light, portable, easy to use mats which are rolled out and the car parked on top. The mats have raised sides to hold the water and a pump so wastewater can be directed to a suitable disposable location or storage tank.

Bunds

Portable bunds that do not allow water to pass through can be used to direct water away from stormwater drains. These bunds are tubes of geotextile filled with impermeable material. Sand filled bunds allow water to filter through and are not suitable for trapping the dissolved pollutants in carwash water.

Spill Response Kit

Accidents do happen so be prepared and carry a spill response kit.

Best wash practice

- § Use a wash mat and bunds to prevent waste water from entering stormwater drains
- § Always use the smallest amount of soap, detergent and polish
- § Use a trigger hose to reduce the amount of water required
- § Dispose of vacuum cleaner waste in the garbage bin
- § Recycle empty detergent containers
- § Place a protective cover on the ground before spraying the car with polish

Make your business grow further with an environmental edge and also avoid costly fines.

This is a summary of the NSW Government guidelines found at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/cardetailers