### Vehicle and Equipment Washing

Washwater from vehicle and equipment operations contains a variety of contaminants which can harm aquatic life and the quality of surface water bodies. These contaminants include detergents, degreasing chemicals, oils, suspended solids, heavy metals, organics, acids and caustics.

**Options for disposal of washwater include:**

1. **Wash your vehicles at a commercial vehicle washing operation with an approved disposal system.**

2. **Install a washing system that recycles all washwater.**
   - Recycling systems remove oils and solids from washwater before the water may be reused.
   - Installation may require approval from the local planning department.
   - A full recycling system, which has no discharge, does not require a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit.

3. **Install an approved washpad and discharge to the sanitary sewer system.**

4. **Contract with a mobile washer who collects the washwater and discharges it into the sanitary sewer system.** Note: the discharge of washwater from mobile washing activities to the storm sewer system is prohibited.

5. **Discharging certain wastewaters to the sanitary sewer;**
   - Requires permission from the City of Portland’s Source Control Division, 503-823-5320.
   - May need to be treated by an oil/water separator.
   - Does not require a permit from DEQ but may require a permit from the City’s Source Control Division.

6. **If the above options are not feasible, you may be able to obtain a washwater discharge permit from DEQ.**