



**Guidelines for proper wastewater containment and disposal for commercial car washes, detailing shops or any business that produces contaminated wastewater as a result of its business activities.**

**It is illegal to discharge wastewater on site or into a storm sewer.** See (City of Las Cruces Stormwater Ordinance Article III, Section 34-125.)

**There are three basic options for managing wastewater associated with vehicle maintenance.**

- 1. Water treatment/filtration** Appropriately treating the water before sending it into the sewer (filtration traps, tanks that separate out pollutants) Treatment of the water before releasing it into the sewer involves the use of a filtering system and sediment collection. These systems should yield water of a purity that is below the threshold of federal and local wastewater standards. The systems require regular maintenance and the filters and sediment collected must also be disposed of appropriately.
- 2. Recycling the water** A wastewater recycling system can pay for itself over the years in reduced water and sewer bills and helps avoid the entire water-into-the-sewer issue altogether. Regular maintenance is required and the residue and particles separated from the water must be disposed of properly.
- 3. Wastewater containment,** Storing the used water, pumping it and disposing it at an appropriate wastewater station. Collecting wastewater in an appropriate storage tank and have a pumping service to remove the wastewater on a regular basis is another alternative to manage wastewater.

**Mobile car wash and detailing services** must also contain their wastewater. Portable containment mats must be used to absorb the wastewater in order to prevent it from getting into streets and storm drains. Once wastewater is reclaimed it must be disposed of appropriately.