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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CLEAN WATER UNDER PRESSURE

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Feb. 27, 2007) – Gwinnett County’s Department of Water Resources has recently implemented a program to address water pollution generated by pressure washers operating in Gwinnett County.

Pressure washing creates left over washwater that may contain oil, grease and other chemicals. Disposal of this waste into a storm drain causes water pollution and is a violation of County ordinances. In response to this problem, county officials formed a partnership with the local chapter of Pressure Washers of North America, a national industry association, to develop a Surface Cleaning Guideline that details how this washwater should be managed to prevent water pollution associated with the industry. The guideline generally requires that any polluted wash water must be collected for proper disposal.

“This is an important step to help control pollution in our streams and waterways,” Stormwater Division Director Bryan Lackey said, “and I’m proud that we worked with the affected industry to develop practical solutions to a serious environmental problem.”

In addition to the development of the guideline, Gwinnett County offered a training seminar to all pressure washers licensed in the County to educate them regarding the requirement to manage their polluted washwater.

Property owners who employ pressure-washing contractors can also play an important role in preventing water pollution by only hiring contractors who comply with the guideline. A list of pressure washing contractors who have demonstrated their ability to collect and manage polluted washwater is available at [www.gwinnettstormwater.com](http://www.gwinnettstormwater.com). Additional resources, including a consumer brochure explaining the program in detail, are also available on the website or by contacting the Stormwater Management Division by phone at 678.376.7137. County ordinances provide that property owners or occupants can also be held responsible for violations that occur on their property or under their supervision or direction.

To report illicit discharges of pressure washing washwater or other contaminants into the storm sewer system, citizens can call 678.376.7000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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