

# Walla Walla gasoline spill and cleanup

## Stillwater Holdings Chevron cleanup site: May/June 2025 update



### Sump operations at Marcus Whitman and 106 Building

Ecology's contractor, NWFF Environmental, has settled into daily operations on site. NWFF consistently monitors water levels in the sumps at the Marcus Whitman and 106 Building to ensure levels remain stable.

A vacuum truck to remove sump water at the Marcus Whitman is scheduled every Monday and Thursday between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. It takes approximately 30 minutes to pump from the hotel and about 30 minutes to discharge at the Chevron.

NWFF has installed security fencing for the remediation equipment located at Stillwater Holdings Chevron.

### Clean Harbors demobilization

Clean Harbors has removed the remaining equipment from the parking lot and is working through the final steps to demobilize. Their final tasks involve professional cleaning and painting to address areas of the building affected by operational wear and tear, along with completing other general cleanup duties.

### 106 Building flooding

Clean Harbors is continuing to work through their process to address damage associated with the flood in the basement of the 106 Building.

### Sampling results

GeoEngineers completed another round of groundwater sampling at Stillwater Chevron, 106 Building, and the Marcus Whitman Hotel properties during the last week of March. Vapor intrusion sampling for all three properties was completed at the end of April. The results will be posted to our [site webpage](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/StillwaterChevron)<sup>1</sup> as soon as they are available.

Overall gasoline petroleum hydrocarbons and the breakdown contaminants of gasoline in groundwater appear to be decreasing or stable across the site. Contaminants decreased in the 106 Building sump with only benzene exceeding cleanup levels. Petroleum hydrocarbons and the breakdown contaminants of gasoline rebounded in the Marcus Whitman Hotel sump with petroleum hydrocarbons and benzene exceeding their respective cleanup levels.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/StillwaterChevron>

## Capital budget funding

The 2025–2027 Capital Budget approved \$3.5 million in funds to continue cleanup efforts at the site. The funding will allow Ecology to complete the remedial investigation, feasibility study, cleanup action plan, implementation of a cleanup remedy, and long-term monitoring.

Ecology is pursuing recovering costs from Stillwater Holdings Chevron. In the meantime, we are using state funding to ensure the safety of the community and environment.

## Site history

The emergency response and cleanup operations in downtown Walla Walla began in September 2023, when Ecology spills staff responded to gasoline odors in the basement of the Marcus Whitman Hotel. Air quality testing identified potentially harmful and explosive gasoline vapors in the basement. The hotel was evacuated immediately. Vapors were also detected in two nearby buildings.

For the next month, ventilation was required to reduce dangerous vapors, and gasoline-contaminated groundwater was pumped from the affected buildings. By October 2023, the threat to the community was reduced, allowing efforts to shift from emergency response to developing a mitigation plan that would ensure the continued safety of nearby residents and businesses.

Based on sampling results, Stillwater Holdings Chevron was identified as the source of the release. Contamination from the spill continues to impact two neighboring properties, the Marcus Whitman Hotel and the 106 Building.

## Questions?

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