



Urban Runoff & Mobile Business

Pressure Wash Operators and Impervious Surface Cleaning

As a valued member of our region's community, we know you are vested in protecting the quality of life that your customers-residents, visitors and other companies expect and which keeps our local economy strong. When water flows off commercial and industrial yards, properties, or pavement, it flows directly into the storm water conveyance system. Many mistakenly believe this water gets "cleaned" before reaching waterways. The sewer system and the storm water conveyance system (drains, inlets and catch basins) are separate; they are **not** connected. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into a storm drain goes **untreated** directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination. Releasing pollutants into the storm water conveyance system is a violation of the San Diego Municipal Code §43.03.

As a responsible business, we expect you to reduce or prevent the discharge or release of harmful pollutants into the City of San Diego's storm water conveyance system.



What Local Law Regulates What Can Go Into The Storm Water Conveyance System (aka Storm Drain) And The Sanitary Sewer System?

Storm Drain:

The Storm Water Management and Discharge Control Ordinance, at Chapter 4, Article 3, Division 3 (§43.0301) of the City of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC), regulates what can go into the storm water conveyance system.

Sewer:

The Industrial Wastewater Ordinance, at Chapter 6, Article 4, Division 5 (§64.0512) of the SDMC regulates discharges to the sewer that are not subject to Federal Pretreatment Standards. Note: Additional local requirements may apply. For specific wastestream advice call to the Industrial Wastewater Control Program.

The SDMC can be viewed on the City's website at [http //clerkdoc.sannet.gov/Website/mc/mc.html](http://clerkdoc.sannet.gov/Website/mc/mc.html) or search for "municipal code" on the City's home page at www.sandiego.gov.

Where Can I Go For More Information?

City of San Diego:

Storm Water Hotline at (619) 235-1000 for more information, or log on to www.thinkbluesd.org.

Industrial User Discharge Permits at (858) 654-4100.

Hazardous Materials:

For business handling and disposal information contact the County Department of Environmental Health at (858) 338-2231.

For residences, contact the City of San Diego Household Hazardous Materials Program Hotline at (858) 573-1204 or log onto www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/disposal/hazardous.shtml.



Where Do I Dispose of Washwater From Pressure Washing or Hosing Down of Driveways, Courtyards, Sidewalks, Parking Lots and Buildings?

Pressure and sidewalk wash discharges into the storm water conveyance systems are a violation of the municipal code and subject to enforcement action.

Dispose of captured washwater to:

- 1.)** With the property owner's permission wastewater should be discharged onto landscaped areas if private sewer connections are not readily available and as long as there is no runoff and the wash water does not contaminate soil with hazardous pollutants. Or...
- 2.)** The sewer system at the customer's site or service provider's facility through a private connection only, such as an onsite sink, toilet or lateral cleanout, at a flow rate that does not exceed 20 gpm and in compliance with San Diego Municipal Code §64.0512.

Best Management Practices

Mobile Pressure Washing Businesses

The following mobile pressure washing business practices are some recommended best management practices (BMPs) for the prevention of storm water pollution. Adhering to these standards will help ensure that you and future generations will be able to use and enjoy one of our most valuable natural resources . . .water!

BMP-1 Planning: Determine where you are going to discharge wastewater before starting a new job. Identify where all storm drains are situated at the jobsite. Never discharge wastewater into a street, ditch, storm drain, or maintenance hole. Obtain all necessary permits and authorizations. If you are going to discharge into the sanitary sewer system at the job site, always obtain the property owner's permission.

BMP-2 Surface Pre-Cleaning: Use dry methods for surface pre-cleaning whenever possible. Know which pre-cleaning wastes may be hazardous waste.

BMP-3 Pressure Washing: Minimize the amount of water used during washing. Avoid cleaning products that contain hazardous substances that can create hazardous waste. Avoid products that may damage paved or coated surfaces.

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BMP-4 Wash Water Collection: Minimize and dispose of waste properly and recycle whenever possible. Decide what is the best method of collection (e.g., berms, stormdrain cover mats, containment pools, vacuums/pumps, vacuum boom, inflatable pipe plug, etc). Locate property high and low spots to determine where wash water can be pooled for collection. Avoid mixing non-hazardous wash water with wash water known to contain hazardous levels of pollutants, as it may increase disposal costs. Do not leave areas of wash water on paved surfaces for evaporation. Sweep up any visible solids and sediments remaining after all the wash water has been collected.

BMP-5 Wastewater Disposal: A permit to discharge non-hazardous pressure washing wastewater to the sanitary sewer through an on-site private sewer connection is not required if the mobile power washing service generates:

- 1) Less than 2,500 gallons per day wash water from exterior mobile power washing.
- 2) Less than 25 gallons per day wash water from engine degreasing.

Mobile power washing business owners planning to haul wash water to their own facility for discharge must contact the Industrial Wastewater Control Program at (858) 654-4100 for necessary approvals.

BMP-6 Avoid using solvent-based cleaners (especially chlorinated solvent cleaners).

**If you have any questions about these BMPs
Call (619) 235-1000.**



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

As you perform your daily activities, be proactive. Assess the activity from an urban runoff point-of-view and ask yourself, "does this activity directly or indirectly generate pollution?" And, "how can I get this job done and prevent waste and/or wash water and debris from entering the storm water conveyance system?" You will be on your way to compliance and protecting our beaches, bays and watersheds if you follow the 3 Cs.

Control

The best line of defense is to prevent materials and debris from entering the storm drain via procedural methods or "good housekeeping."

Contain

Isolate your work area to prevent discharges from leaving the site.

Capture

Clean up the work area by sweeping or vacuuming up any residue pollutants that have the potential to be discharged. Properly dispose of the residue, and check with the manufacturer for disposal requirements.



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This information is available in alternative formats upon request.