



URBAN RUNOFF & MOBILE BUSINESS

Pressure Washing 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 residential, 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 water that flows into a storm drain goes **untreated** directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination.

It is illegal to discharge pollutants into the storm water system or any receiving water (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incidence. As a responsible business, we expect you to **prevent** the discharge of harmful pollutants into the City of San Diego's storm water conveyance system.

As you perform your daily activities, be proactive. It is easier to prevent pollution than to try to clean it up once it has occurred. If you think there is a potential to create pollution, follow the 3C's as a general guideline:

Contain

Contain your work area by preventing water and potential pollutants from leaving your work site. Protect nearby storm drains to prevent any potential flow or discharge to the storm drain system.

Control

Better manage your work area by keeping equipment, tools and supplies organized and properly contained. Use dry cleaning methods first. Sweep up debris with a broom or use a mop to clean hard surfaces.

Capture

Clean up your work area and properly dispose of contaminated water, pollutants and debris. Use a broom, mop, or vacuum to capture any residue or pollutants that have the potential to be discharged.



What Laws Regulate What Can Go Into the Storm Water Conveyance System and the Sanitary Sewer System?

Storm Water System:

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 System:

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. Additional local requirements may apply.

For the SDMC visit: sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/legisdocs/muni.shtml

City of San Diego - Storm Water Division

Hotline: (619) 235-1000

Website: thinkblue.org

Industrial Wastewater Control Program:

Hotline: (858) 654-4100

Website: sandiego.gov/mwwd/environment/iwcp/index.shtml

How Do I Dispose of Captured Wash Water From Pressure Washing or Hosing Down of Driveways, 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.

- 1.) With the property owner's permission, wash water can be discharged onto landscaped areas as long as there is no runoff and the wash water does not contaminate the soil with hazardous pollutants.
- 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.

Hazardous Materials:

For business generated hazardous waste
County Hazardous Materials Division:

Hotline:
(858) 505-6880

Website:

sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/hazmat/hazmat_permits.html

For household generated hazardous waste
Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility:

Hotline:
(619) 694-7000

Website:

sandiego.gov/environmental-services



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Best Management Practices Mobile Pressure Washing Business

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.

BMP-4 Wash Water Containment & Collection:

Minimize and dispose of waste properly and recycle whenever possible. Collect wash water in permanent or temporary capture facility. 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 Cleaners:

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

If you have any questions about these BMPs Call the Storm Water Hotline at (619) 235-1000.



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