

Mobile Businesses



Pressure Washing

Power washing, high-pressure washing or hosing down outdoor surfaces (buildings, sidewalks, patios, equipment, windows, fences, etc.) creates harmful water pollutants like dirt, debris, bacteria and chemicals. Before starting, ensure storm drains are located and covered. Use as little water as possible, collect all wastewater and debris remaining on surfaces to dispose of them properly, and obtain all permits and authorizations necessary for wastewater disposal.



Vehicle Washing

Washing vehicles generates pollutants, such as toxic cleaning chemicals, automotive fluids, dirt and metals from brake and tire dust (copper, lead, nickel and zinc). To help prevent harmful runoff, vehicle washing should occur over an area where water can be absorbed by the ground (lawn, soil, etc.) not hard surfaces like concrete. It's also important to utilize dry cleaning methods like sweeping, wiping, vacuuming or raking, or use a portable water containment mat equipped with berms.

Pet Grooming

Mobile pet grooming services can produce pollutants, including bacteria, soaps, fur, dirt and chemicals (e.g. flea medication). Washing smaller animals in a sink or tub and disposing of wastewater into the sanitary sewer system, such as a toilet, can prevent harmful runoff. Washing larger animals on a lawn or over a landscaped area can be done if the soil can absorb the wastewater without runoff or soil contamination.



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to discharge polluted water from mobile business activities (pressure washing, pet grooming, mobile detailing, carpet cleaning, etc.) into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Violations can cost up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Carpet Cleaning

Carpet cleaning businesses can generate pollutants like toxic cleaning chemicals, dirt and carpet fibers. Wastewater and debris must be contained, collected and disposed of correctly to protect our waterways.

Locate

Locate your site operations away from storm drain system inlets (storm drain, curb gutters, streets or alleys). Ensure you know where all drains and catch basins are so you can protect these openings to ensure no accidental discharge gets into the storm drain system.

Control

Contain wastewater in your designated work area by using effective Best Management Practices, or BMPs, specific to your business. In addition, use as little water as possible and implement dry cleanup methods in your work area before starting the job.

Contain

Collect wastewater using a wet/dry vacuum, pump, wastewater tank or alternative method. These tanks must remain closed until the wastewater is discarded appropriately. Also, be sure to inspect and maintain equipment frequently to prevent spills and leaks, and ensure the equipment is working properly.

Capture

Dispose of wastewater through one of these three ways:

1. Direct wastewater without harmful debris or chemicals onto a landscaped area. Only do this after receiving the property owner's permission, and don't leave until all wastewater has soaked into the ground completely.
2. Discard wastewater in a sewer cleanout, utility sink or toilet. Ensure all heavy debris, hazardous materials and other materials likely to clog the drain are removed before discarding. The property owner must give permission.
3. Dispose of wastewater off-site at a sanitary sewer dump station, your business location or your home. You may need to obtain a permit to dispose of wastewater in the sanitary sewer.

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

Water that flows through storm drains goes untreated into our waterways. When this water contains pollutants, it harms our fish, wildlife, water quality and beaches. Using the sanitary sewer system and proper disposal methods helps keep our thriving ecosystems healthy and protects San Diegans. Be a part of the solution to reduce pollution and improve our water quality by using the BMPs above both at home and work.

