



OUTDOOR PRESSURE WASHING BMP FACTSHEET 18

Rev. 04/2019



Targeted Pollutants

Sediment	X
Nutrients	X
Trash	X
Metals	X
Bacteria	X
Oil & Grease	X
Chemicals	X
Salt	X

Objectives

Cover	
Contain	X
Educate	X
Reduce/Minimize	X
Product Substitution	

DESCRIPTION

Pressure washing buildings, equipment, and pavement can dislodge harmful pollutants such as oils, grease, sealants, paint, and debris. These materials, in addition to any solvents or detergents being used, can flow untreated into storm drains if preventative measures are not taken. Allowing untreated wastewater to enter storm drains pollutes local waterways and is a violation of local, state, and federal laws.

GUIDELINES

- Pre-clean the area before pressure washing by collecting litter, sweeping, scraping, and using absorbents to remove oil and grease stains prior to pressure washing. This practice conserves water and reduces stormwater contamination.
- Wastewater from pressure washing **MUST** be collected to prevent pollutants in wash water from entering storm drains.
- Plug or place booms or storm drain mats around inlets to avoid discharging pollutants directly into storm drains.
- Use cleaners and detergents sparingly, if at all. If chemicals, solvents, or other hazardous materials are used, wash waters **MUST** be contained and disposed of properly. DPW-ENV. DIV. should be consulted if any products are to be used during pressure washing activities.



- Clean up remaining residue or debris by sweeping. Otherwise, the next time it rains these materials will be discharged down the nearest storm drain.
 - Wastewater can be collected from its containment using a wet vacuum, a sump pump, or a vacuum pump. It is important to collect your wastewater because any pollutants left on the pavement will eventually be carried into a nearby storm drain by rainwater. Wastewater that contains soap, detergent, cleaning products, hazardous waste, or large amounts of any other pollutant cannot be left on paved surfaces. Plastic tanks can be used to temporarily store wastewater until it can be properly disposed of.
 - Collected debris from pre-cleaning activities can be disposed of as normal refuse. All used absorbents and other potential hazardous wastes should be disposed of properly (refer to Fort Belvoir's Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Plan).
- Collected wastewater should be disposed of using the sanitary sewer system. If this condition cannot be met, contact DPW/ENV. DIV. at (703) 806 - 3406 for additional guidance.