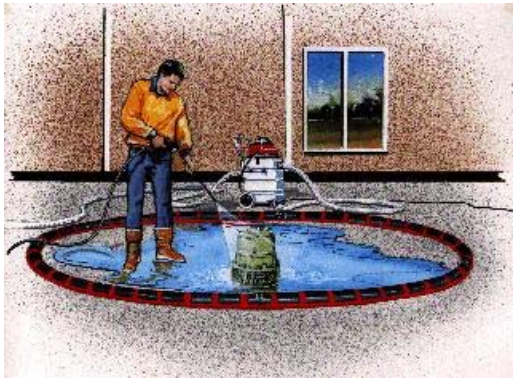
WHAT IS PRESSURE WASHING?

Pressure washing uses mechanical equipment to create a high pressure stream of water, typically ejected from a hand-held wand or nozzle. This jet of water is used for cleaning a wide variety of surfaces and objects. Depending on the application, pressure washing may be conducted with or without heated water or added cleaners.



THE PROBLEM

Most pressure washing activities are conducted outside. This often results in the discharge of wastewater to the storm drainage system, unless the equipment operator takes steps to collect and dispose of the wash water legally. Discharge of pressure washing wastewater into the storm drainage system is prohibited because it contains pollutants from the cleaning compounds used and/or from the objects or surfaces being cleaned such as dumpster areas, parking lots, and equipment containing oils, grease, chemicals, and other substances. Even cleaners labeled “biodegradable” and “non-toxic” may be harmful to aquatic life and or ground water.

HOW TO:

Collect Wash Water

A simple and acceptable method for collecting wash water on private property requires only a drain plug, small sump pump and a length of hose. If a small parking lot type catch basin is available, remove the grate, plug the drain pipe and place the pump in the catch basin attached to the garden hose. As wash water drains to this lowest spot, pump to landscaping or a container for later disposal. Vacuum booms can also be used for collecting wash water.

Direct Wash Water to Landscaping

When routing wash water to landscaping, check the slopes in the area. Make sure that no wash water runoff will enter the street, gutter or storm drain system.

Block Storm Drains and Contain Wash Water

Sand bags can be used to create a barrier around the storm drains. Plugs or rubber mats can also be used to seal storm drain openings. Vacuum booms, containment pads and temporary berms are all acceptable methods for containing and controlling wash water runoff.

Clean Permeable Pavements

Sweeping, periodic vacuuming and low-pressure washing should be used to keep the pavement voids clear. For interlocking pavers, additional aggregate fill material may be needed after cleaning. Be sure to keep any dislodged fill material out of the storm drain system.

The City of Bend gratefully acknowledges the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association and the Low Impact Development Center for the original concept and/or Best Management Practices noted herein.

PRESSURE WASHING AND SURFACE CLEANING

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Your guide to practical methods used to protect the environment and comply with regulatory requirements.

- **Restaurant Hood Cleaning**
- **Drive-Throughs**
- **Parking Areas**
- **Sidewalks**
- **Flat Work**
- **Plazas**

City of Bend
Stormwater Division
62975 Boyd Acres Rd
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PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

To improve the quality of water we drink, fish and swim in, Federal and State regulations prohibit the discharge of pollutants to water bodies without a permit. The City of Bend is required to implement programs to reduce pollutants in our stormwater runoff. Pressure washing can carry pollutants into storm drain facilities if it is not properly contained and disposed.

DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Pressure washing waste water shall be disposed of in a manner that complies with all local, State and Federal environmental regulations. It is the responsibility of the generator to determine the proper collection and disposal method for wastewater created by pressure washing. To avoid unanticipated costs, delays, and violations, this determination should always be made prior to starting any job.

BMPS FOR PRESSURE WASHING

Pressure washing certain types of surfaces may generate hazardous waste (e.g., lead-based paint chips, oil/grease, hydrofluoric acid, muriatic acid, etc.). Generating hazardous waste may dramatically increase operating costs and limit disposal options.

1. SURFACE PRE-CLEANING

Consider using dry methods for surface pre-cleaning, such as using absorbents on small oil spots and sweeping or vacuuming up trash/debris/dirt before wet washing. However, you should also be aware of the costs and requirements associated with disposal. It is important to remember, that dry pre-cleaning methods, need to be collected as soon as possible and disposed of properly.

2. PRESSURE WASHING

- Minimize the amount of water used during pressure washing activities, thus reducing the volume of wastewater that needs to be properly disposed.
- Avoid using cleaning products that contain hydrofluoric acid, muriatic acid, sodium hydroxide or bleach.

3. SURFACE CLEANING

- Minimize use of acidic, caustic, and detergent cleaners, which may damage paved or coated surfaces.
- Wash water with high pollutant concentrations, including cleaning compounds, must be completely collected and may not be left to evaporate.

4. WASH WATER COLLECTION

- Locate property low-spots and determine the area where wastewater can be pooled for collection. If a storm drain is located in the collection area, ensure that the path to the drain is blocked and is tightly sealed before allowing wash water to collect in this area.
- Common equipment used for containing and collecting wastewater generated during pressure washing activities include: vacuum pumps, booms/berms, portable containment areas, weighted storm drain covers, inflatable plugs, holding tanks, portable pumps, hoses, absorbents and sand bags.
- Avoid mixing non-hazardous and hazardous wastewater.
- Place an oil-absorbent mat/pad on top of collected wastewater to help reduce the amount of oil re-deposited on the surface of the collection area.
- Alternatively, the collection area may be rinsed, provided that any nearby drains are still covered or blocked, and the rinse water is properly contained collected and disposed.
- See back of brochure for additional tips on collecting wash water.

5. WASH WATER DISPOSAL

If you operate or are considering using a wash water recycling or pretreatment unit such as an oil/water separator, make sure you understand the waste streams that are generated. Identify proper disposal methods for these wastes, and consider disposal costs before starting a job.

A. SEWER DISPOSAL

Disposal of pressure washing waste water into the sanitary sewer is prohibited without written agreement with the City of Bend Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator. Call *541-322-6348* for more information.

B. LAND DISPOSAL

Wastewater may be collected and discharged or directed onto landscaped areas and/or dirt if the property owner allows and only when the wastewater does not contain food products or contaminants such as solvents, cleaners, oils, metals, etc. that may constitute a hazardous waste or create a nuisance condition. In addition, such discharges must soak into the ground and may not flow into the storm drain.

6. RESTAUTANT HOOD CLEANING

Any wastewater containing food grade Fats, Oils or Grease (FOG) must be disposed of inside through the establishment's grease trap or interceptor. Improper disposal of FOG into the storm drain system or directly into the sewer system may cause clogging and system failure. For questions concerning FOG management and disposal please call 541-385-6191.