Pressure Washing

Information Packet

City of Austin
Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839
Watershed Protection Department
505 Barton Springs Road, 11th Floor, Austin, Texas 78704

Dear Business Owner:

This packet was compiled by the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department to assist the pressure washing industry in complying with local, state, and federal environmental regulations that, oftentimes, can be difficult to understand.

To help give you a baseline understanding, the rules begin with federal requirements. Section 301 of The Clean Water Act prohibits a point source discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States without a permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It mandates that all cities in the United States with a population greater than 100,000 have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit to operate their municipal storm sewer systems. In Texas, EPA delegated this authority to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as a part of Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Stormwater Permit. One of the key elements of this permit requires each city to have and enforce an ordinance that bans certain pollutant discharges to the storm sewer. Title VI of the City of Austin's water quality code fulfills this requirement and contains specific pollutant discharge prohibitions. Wash water from pressure washing activities is one of many discharges prohibited because it contains pollutants such oil, grime, and dirt removed from a surface that was cleaned.

The TCEQ classifies vehicle washing and pressure washing under the same activity. Anyone using wash equipment must obtain an TPDES permit for each discharge location. Because many pressure washing businesses are mobile, it may be unreasonable to pre-determine discharge locations and obtain permits for each location. Most TPDES permitted process water discharges also require treatment and analysis of the discharge, which may not be practical for mobile detailers and other mobile washers. Most cannot afford the time it takes to accomplish these activities.

The question then becomes - What is Practical? Compliance with pressure washing regulations is not difficult. Pre-plan each wash event to allow for disposal of all wash water to the sanitary sewer system. It is illegal to discharge wash water into a storm drain system or into a city street that drains to a storm sewer inlet. Doing this may lead to criminal prosecution, resulting in fines and/or jail. Remember **anything** that enters a storm drain goes to our creeks and lakes.

You will find more detailed information concerning "Best Management Practices" during pressure washing activities within this packet. Other fact sheets are available upon request such as for food service operations that includes proper cleaning practices for dumpster and grease trap areas. The City of Austin is committed to assisting businesses in understanding compliance with stormwater regulations. Should you have any questions, feel free to call us at 512/974-2550.

AUSTIN CLEAN WATER PARTNERS

CLEAN WATER FACT SHEET

PRESSURE WASHING

City of Austin - Watershed Protection Department

Pollution! For most of us this word conjures visions of grounded oil tankers spilling millions of gallons of petroleum onto pristine beaches, and bubbling pools of green toxic waste dumped by a defunct chemical plant. What some people do not realize is the cumulative effects of our everyday activities such as pressure washing of equipment, vehicles, and pavement can also greatly impact the environment. Pressure washing removes dispersed grime, dirt, oil, and grease off surfaces being cleaned and concentrates these pollutants in the wash water. If this contaminated water drains to storm sewers which empty to our creeks and lakes, it pollutes our waterways. The Watershed Protection Department is responsible for preventing polluting discharges to the City storm sewer system and waterways as mandated by Title VI, Chapter 6-5 (Water Quality) of City Code. This fact sheet provides pressure washing contractors with information on how to operate without polluting the environment.

The cumulative effect of improper pressure washing significantly impacts the environment

The Problem

Not planning for collection and disposal of wash water.

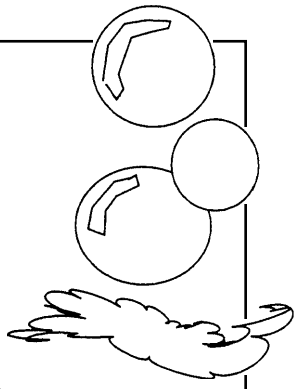
Not planning for proper wash water disposal could result in significant costs to a pressure washing business. It's too late to decide where to dispose of wash water after cleaning a customer's lot, structure, or equipment. Chances are, the wash water will be dumped somewhere it shouldn't, resulting in costly fines and wastewater cleanups.

Using toxic and hazardous cleaning chemicals.

The use of toxic or hazardous cleaning agents such as flammable solvent, acids, or caustics make wastewater disposal more difficult and expensive. If flushed to a storm sewer or waterway, they can destroy aquatic life. Some examples are:

- chlorine (found in disinfectants),
- ammonia (found in many floor and interior surface cleaners),
- sodium hydroxide (found in floor stripper),
- phosphoric acid (found in many different cleaning agents),
- nitrilotriacetic acid (found in detergents),
- meta, para, ortho-xylenes (found in concrete cleaners) and,
- hydrofluoric acid (found in metal brighteners).

Did you know...



If all Texans washed their vehicles twice a year and used 5 gallons of water per wash, they would generate an estimated 150 million gallons of wastewater annually. This is a lot of dirty, soapy water that can pollute our valuable water resources.

City of Austin WATERSHED PROTECTION

Flushing chemicals to soil or storm water ponds results in costly cleanups. It is illegal to discharge hazardous cleaning agents to septic or sanitary sewer systems because these materials destroy biological organisms that treat the sewage and could damage the treatment plant. Most landfills will not accept liquid materials. Therefore, the only option is costly - using a hazardous waste disposal service.

Not pretreating heavily soiled areas prior to pavement cleaning.

Parking lots, walkways, and driveways accumulate motor oil, fuel, and antifreeze from leaking vehicles, grease, trash, and dirt. Flushing these contaminants to storm drains and streams not only results in serious fines, but also serious pollution impacts. Trash and debris clogs storm drains and waterways, leading to increased maintenance costs and flooding problems.

Trash and debris also create an aesthetic nuisance, thereby decreasing the recreational value of our creeks or lakes. Leaves and grass clippings add unneeded organic materials to a waterway that depletes oxygen for fish. Antifreeze, fuels, oil, and metals found in used automotive fluids (arsenic, chromium, copper, lead and mercury) are toxic to humans, animals and aquatic life. Sediment and dirt cause creeks and lakes to become cloudy, reducing sunlight needed for aquatic plants. Sediment also smothers bottom-dwelling aquatic life and clogs fish gills. Many other pollutants, including metals, bacteria, and some nutrients adhere to sediment particles, increasing the sediment pollution impact.

Not collecting wash water.

Washing occurs when surfaces are dirty. So, even washing with plain, cold water can produce dirty wash water. Furthermore, the use of both chemical cleaning agents and/or hot water increases the amount of contaminants in the wash water. Hot water dissolves oil and grease from surfaces, so when flushed, pollutants are washed to the environment.

Cleaning agents are designed to emulsify or bind pollutants such as oil and grease. For example, engine cleaning wastewater contains petroleum products and heavy metals (e.g. lead); and, kitchen exhaust/equipment cleaning wastewater contains food grease and oil. So, if pressure wash water is flushed away - it not only carries the cleaning wastes to storm sewers or waterways, but also oil and grease residues from surfaces over which it flows. Oil and grease destroys aquatic organisms. In addition, some cleaning agents contain hazardous or toxic ingredients that kill aquatic life. Soaps and detergents (especially phosphate detergents) promote algae blooms in waterways. The subsequent death and decay of the blooms deplete sunlight and oxygen needed by aquatic life.

Using microbes incorrectly.

Microbes are commonly used for pavement cleaning, since these specialized bacteria and fungi "eat" petroleum and break it down to non-toxic compounds. Microbes, like other living organisms, need water, food, and air to survive. So, microbes applied to hot pavement without water will die.

Many microbial cleaning agents contain detergents which promote efficient cleaning by dissolving oil and grime off dirty surfaces. This concentrates pollutants in the wash water. Microbial cleaning agents may also contain nutrients like nitrogen to stimulate microbial growth and reproduction. But, if microbial

Did you know...

Heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, and copper can interfere with reproductive cycles of fish, invertebrates, and other aquatic life. Sources of metal pollution include vehicle and parking lot washing discharges.

City of Austin
WATERSHED PROTECTION

cleaning agents are flushed by pavement cleaning - or if rain water flushes cleaning agents off a dirty surface - the microbes may not find their intended food source. As a result, the dissolved oils and greases in the wash water will impact receiving waterways, and nutrients will overstimulate algae growth. Also, applying microbes over large paved areas increases the likelihood they will be flushed to storm sewers and waterways.

Improper disposal of collected wash water. Disposal of collected wash water from pressure washing activities to a storm drain, storm water pond, oil/grit separator is a violation of City, State, and Federal regulations. Discharging pressure washing wash water containing soaps or detergents to storm water ponds or oil/grit separators can cause these structures to fail, and release their contents (concentrated wastes such as oil, heavy metals, and sediment) to the storm drainage system. Wash water contains contaminants that harm aquatic life if discharged to storm sewers and waterways. It is preferable to wash or divert to a vegetated area, given mild cleaning activities were performed and no residual pollutants are in the discharge. For example, wash water generated from cleaning a heavily soiled area with or without cleaning agents should not be discharged to a vegetated area. This wastewater should be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system.

Improper disposal of sludge from wash water treatment or recycling systems. Some pressure washers use portable wastewater recycle or treatment systems. These typically produce a sludge as the solids settle out of the reusable water. This sludge contains dirt, grease, oil, heavy metals, cleaning agent residues, and other wastes depending on the surface being cleaned. Discarding the sludge to a storm drain, waterway, or landscaped area will pollute it. Putting the contaminated sludge in the trash can result in contamination of the landfill and groundwater.

The Solution

Effectively plan for wash water disposal. Before a cleaning job, determine what kinds of contaminants might be on the surfaces to be cleaned. Choose a cleaning agent that will do the job, but ones without hazardous ingredients that make disposal difficult. Review the Material Safety Data Sheet for the cleaning agent prior to choosing a cleaning material. With this information, plan for responsible disposal. If you have a recycle or treatment system, check with the manufacturer to find out what quality wastewater is produced. This will also determine where the wastewater can be disposed. Explore your disposal options and choose the one right for you.

Pre-clean areas of frequent, heavy grease and grime buildup.
For pavement:

(1) Pick up litter and debris and sweep up accumulated sediment and dirt; seal it in trash bags and put it in trash receptacles.

(2) Clean up puddles, leaks or spills with a dry absorbent material such as kitty litter; seal in garbage bags and place in trash.

(3) Clean heavy oil stains and slick spots by brushing these areas with a mixture of granular clay, detergent and a small amount of water; allow it to dry; sweep it up and dispose with the trash.

Before cleaning, find out what kinds of contaminants are on the surface and choose a cleaning agent that will do the job. Then collect

Spot clean relatively small, exceptionally soiled areas on vehicles, aircraft, kitchen equipment, and buildings with a small amount of cleaning agent. Absorb the wash water using a rag, mop & bucket, wet vacuum, or similar equipment. If spot cleaning is not practical, capture and dispose of the wash water as described later in this document.

Clean dirty surfaces using a "dry" method. Several products can be applied to recently cleaned vehicles or airplanes to prevent attachment of dirt and oils. However, many of these products require the surface to be initially wet washed to remove most of the concentrated grime. Then, the clean surface is coated with dry washing product, allowing it to be simply rinsed or wiped with a damp cloth at the next cleaning. This will save on water usage. Check the yellow pages of the phone book under "Dry Washing" for contacts and phone numbers, or check with a cleaning chemical supplier for additional options.

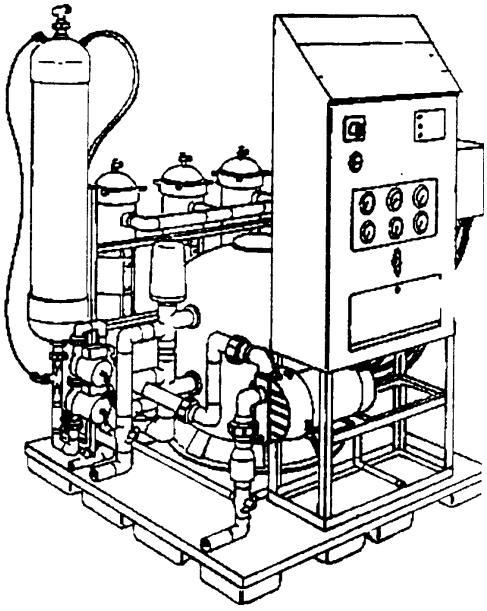
Use plain, cold water to wash. Save money by not purchasing chemicals, and not disposing of polluted wash water. Instead of using chemical cleaning agents, rinse or sweep dust and debris such as leaves off surfaces . Some pressure washing companies around Austin use this method to clean cars at dealerships or homes and residential decks.

Choose biodegradable cleaning agents. Choose less toxic cleaning chemicals - it makes disposal much easier and less expensive. These cleaning agents generally decompose quickly and are safer to use. Environmental liability associated with hazardous waste disposal is reduced.

Note: Using a biodegradable cleaning agent does not mean that the wash water won't harm the aquatic life when flushed to storm drains and waterways. When a biodegradable agent concentrates potentially hazardous materials into the wash water from the surface being cleaned (e.g. heavy metals and petroleum products), the entire volume of the wash water is polluted.

Use microbes responsibly. Petroleum-consuming microbes are very useful in controlled cleanup situations such as oily soil remediation, contained parts cleaning, and waste water treatment. Apply microbial cleaning agents according to manufacturer's directions, providing ample food, water, and oxygen, and then collect the cleaning agent for proper disposal. Use microbes only on oil stains and slick spots. Apply microbes with a minimal amount of water so that runoff does not occur. After ample application time, pick up the microbes for disposal by using absorbent material. Never leave microbes on paved areas - rain will wash them to a storm sewer or waterway. Do not apply microbes over a large area. Never flush

Wastewater recycling systems may be expensive, but they save the enormous cost of contaminated waste disposal.



Note: Using a biodegradable cleaning agent does not mean that the wash water won't harm the aquatic life when flushed to storm drains and waterways. When a biodegradable agent concentrates potentially hazardous materials into the wash water from the surface being cleaned (e.g. heavy metals and petroleum products), the entire volume of the wash water is

Note: Do not use wet vacuums to pick up wash water containing flammable materials found in some cleaning agents or from gasoline spills—this can lead to fire and explosions.

microbes to a storm sewer or waterway. Obtain approval from the Watershed Protection Department to routinely use microbes - a phone number is provided at the end of this fact sheet.

Capture wash water containing cleaning agents.

At permanent sites, construct a covered wash pad (such as a car wash bay) that contains and recovers the wash water for disposal to the sanitary sewer system. For temporary or mobile cleaning operations, other options are:

- Wash mats contain wash water through raised or curbed edges. Wash mats are commonly used in mobile vehicle washing applications.
- Barrier or boom systems capture wastewater by placing them around equipment or structures being washed. These systems are also placed down gradient of the wash area, capturing wastewater before it drains into a storm sewer. Barrier systems are not recommended for use on soil or uneven surfaces which allow the wash water to soak in or run underneath the barrier.
- Seals and plugs to cover storm drains and inlets, preventing wastewater from entering. A seal is a waterproof mat placed over a storm drain, while a plug is usually placed inside the storm sewer at the outlet pipe. The wastewater is then collected in or around the storm drain, which is usually the low point of the parking lot or paved surface.

Collect or pick-up contained wash water. For small jobs, pick up wash water using a mop and bucket or wet vacuums. The following are typically used for larger jobs:

- Pumps to collect wastewater from a collection area and place it in a tank or drums for treatment or disposal.
- Floor scrubbing machines, street sweepers, and similar equipment to spray water and sometimes a cleaning solution onto the surface being cleaned, and immediately vacuum it into a tank for treatment and disposal.

Store wash water for treatment and/or disposal safely and properly.

For some jobs, especially those at gas stations or facilities with an on site car wash, storage may not be necessary. Here, discharge the wash water directly into the wash bay drain where it will be treated and recycled or sent to the sanitary sewer. If on site sanitary sewer disposal is not possible, place the wastewater in a tank or drums for hauling to an approved disposal site. In some instances, the wastewater may need storage for an extended period of time to await sampling results or disposal approval. Regardless of how long the wastewater is stored, handle it in a safe and legal manner.

Keep storage containers securely closed and labeled to identify the contents. Stored containers in a well-ventilated area with overhead cover to protect them from rain. Keep containers in a secure location protected from traffic and vandalism. If the containers are portable, such as a plastic tank on a flatbed truck or trailer, they must meet Department of Transportation requirements. These requirements include type of container, volume it can carry, proper labeling, proper documentation (manifest), etc. For transported wastes, develop a spill contingency plan. Educate all workers transporting such wastes with the response actions listed in the plan. For more details on spill contingency planning, contact the Watershed Protection Department. Phone numbers can be found at the end of this fact sheet.

Reduce, reuse, recycle.

Treat wash water prior to disposal to: (1) separate out pollutants (e.g. oil for recycling), (2) reduce the volume of wastewater for disposal, and (3) provide reusable

wash water - all which reduce business costs and pollution. Wastewater treatment is most frequently used for construction equipment and vehicle washing to remove sediment and grime. It is also used for engine detailing and oily equipment washing (such as the landing gear for aircraft or automotive parts to be machined) to remove petroleum products.

Wastewater treatment is not necessary in all cases. Some pressure washing contractors choose not to treat the wastewater due to cost of the equipment. However, treatment systems may actually pay for themselves, as heavily contaminated wastewater is more expensive to dispose of than slightly contaminated wastewater. Several types of treatment systems are available:

- Total recycling units reprocess wastewater for reuse as wash water. These units are usually found at a stationary or permanent wash site. The settled sludge may need disposal as hazardous waste due to concentration of hydrocarbons and heavy metals.
- Limited recycle units reprocess the wastewater for limited reuse as wash water. Waste from limited recycle units are generally clean enough for disposal in the sanitary sewer, with prior approval.
- Pretreatment units only clean the wastewater enough for disposal to the sanitary sewer, with prior approval. Unlike limited recycle units, the wastewater is not clean enough for reuse.
- Evaporator units reduce the amount of wastewater for disposal by heating the water for evaporation losses. Evaporator units are used in sequence with other treatment systems (see above) to prevent pollutants from releasing to the atmosphere.

These treatment systems can use one or more of several methods to clean up wastewater.

- Gravity settling allows gravity to do the work - oil floats on water and sediment falls to the bottom.
- Oil-water separation skims or strains oil from the wastewater. This process is complicated if there are detergents in the wastewater because they disperse and suspend oil and grease in the water. A chemical additive may be necessary to break apart the oil and water.
- Chemical treatment adds chemicals to separate contaminants (e.g. using flocculants - large particles which attract contaminants and separate them from the water).
- Carbon filtration removes pollutants by adsorbing them to carbon particles in the filter.
- Mechanical filtration pumps the wastewater through filters to remove solids.
- Media filtration removes pollutants from wastewater with sand or gravel as filter media.
- Reverse osmosis (RO) filtration forces clean water, under pressure, through a very fine membrane. Contaminants present in the wastewater that are too large to pass through the filter membrane are retained. RO membranes are very sensitive and are expensive to replace if they are subjected to very dirty wastewater. RO filters are used in sequence behind other filters.
- Oxidation or ozonation breaks down organic pollutants by adding liquid oxygen or ozone to the wastewater.

The City's Solid Waste Services Department provides free, nonregulatory audits of businesses to help reduce the amount of waste generated. Contact them for more details at the phone number provided at the end of this document.

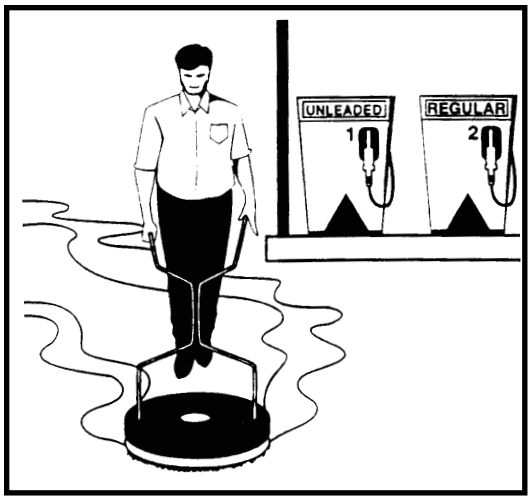
The City's Solid Waste Services Department provides free, nonregulatory audits of businesses to help reduce

Dispose of wash water properly.
Check with your client; some work sites have an approved facility such as a car wash or recycle system that can legally handle pressure washing wash water. But, obtain permission from the site owner or operator first; these systems connect to the sanitary sewer and may have loading limi-

tations. Wastewater from kitchen equipment cleaning and some pavement cleaning may be acceptable for discharge to the sanitary sewer system, only with prior approval from the Austin Water Utility. Contact the Austin Water Utility for more information. Never discharge pressure washing wastes to a septic system, as some cleaning agents may destroy the biological organisms necessary for the system to operate.

Store and dispose of sludge from recycle or treatment systems properly.
Waste filters, sludge, and/or solids generated from reuse or recycle wash water systems will eventually need disposal. These materials may be hazardous if they contain specific quantities of contaminants like heavy metals. Dry the sludge prior to disposal to make disposal easier (liquid wastes are prohibited at some landfills) and less costly. Follow the same storage protocol as described earlier. In general, disposal companies will require laboratory analysis of the wastes, to determine proper handling and disposal procedures. Always keep records of the disposal company, its location, copies of manifests, and any other documentation to demonstrate that the waste has been legally handled and discarded. Contact the Watershed Protection Department for a list of disposal companies.

Know your drainage.
Familiarize yourself with the location and purpose of storm drains, oil/grit separators, and storm water ponds in areas where you plan to clean. Prevent wash water from entering these drains and ponds. Be aware that most outdoor and some indoor drains connect to the City's storm sewer system leading to area creeks and lakes. If you are unsure which system (sanitary or storm) is connected to your drains, contact the Watershed Protection Department or a licensed plumber for a dye trace and/or other verification method. Train employees. Prevention is the key to eliminating pollution. The best prevention method is to train employees to clean pavement, equipment, vehicles, and structures properly. Take time for training; it can save time and money in clean ups, fines, and site restorations.



Make wastewater disposal easier and less expensive.

Use the least toxic cleaning chemicals when pressure washing.

The Bottom Line

There are costs associated with environmental damages due to discharges or spills to storm sewers, oil/grit separators, storm water ponds, grassy areas, and dumpsters from improper wastewater or sludge disposal. Clean up costs, in addition to costs associated with treatment of injuries or time lost from work can be substantial. This is especially true if the discharged waste is hazardous and poses a public health or environmental threat. Fines or criminal penalties can be levied against persons contributing to illegal discharge or waste disposal practices. It is the responsibility of the pressure washer and their clients to ensure all applicable regulations are followed.

For more information:

Regulation of polluting discharges to storm sewers and waterways; fact sheets on oil/grit separators, storm water ponds and pavement cleaning; spill contingency planning; proper use of microbes; hazardous waste disposal companies; list of wastewater treatment/recycling vendors
City of Austin Watershed Protection Department
Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section
(512) 974-2550

Septic system discharges
Austin Water Utility
On-site Sewage Facility Program
(512) 972-0267

Sanitary sewer discharges
Austin Water Utility
Special Services Division
(512) 972-1060

Business waste reduction, Waste Exchange Program
City of Austin Solid Waste Services Department
Waste Reduction Assistance Program
(512) 974-4331

Department of Transportation (DOT) material transportation regulations, waste storage/disposal requirements, recycling/reuse information, microbe use approval
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Region 11 Office
(512) 339-2929

Cleaning Equipment Trade Association (CETA)
(800) 441-0111 I

nternational Carwash Association (ICA)
(312) 321-5199

International Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning Association (IKECA)
(202) 638-2031

International Window Cleaning Association
(IWCA) (800) 875-4922

National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA)
(202) 737-2926

Power Washers of North America (PWNA)
(800) 393-7962

Water Jet Technology Association (WJTA)
(314) 241-1445

City of Austin
WATERSHED
PROTECTION

Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section
Watershed Protection Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Austin Water Utility
Special Services Division
3907 S. Industrial Drive, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78744-1070

Disposal Options for Wastewater Generated by Pressure Washers

City, State and Federal regulations require that pressure washing wastewater be collected for appropriate disposal.

Where can pressure washing wastewater be disposed?

- **The sanitary sewer system with prior approval from the Special Services Division of the Austin Water Utility.**
  1) Wash at an existing facility (i.e. service station, convenience store) that has:
     - Current Industrial Waste Control Permit with the Austin Water Utility
     - Appropriate pretreatment (e.g. grit trap)

  2) Establish a fixed site/facility connected to the City's sanitary sewer collection system with the following conditions met:
     - Submit a permit application for review.
     - Obtain authorization by permit to discharge industrial wastewater.
     - Install appropriate pretreatment structure (e.g., grit trap).
     - Install a wastewater flow meter at the discharge from the fixed site to facilitate billing for wastewater charges and, possibly wastewater surcharges.

- **A Landfill**
  The BFI and Waste Management landfills on Giles Road in Austin will accept, with prior approval, certain types of hauled liquid waste. Please call and check with each landfill site for there individual requirements.

Pressure washing wastewater cannot be disposed of in:

- **The storm sewer system (including drainage ditches, detention ponds, and other stormwater conveyances).**
- **A waterway.**
- **A sanitary sewer cleanout.**
- **A sanitary sewer or storm sewer manhole.**
- **A toilet.**
- **The Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Receiving Station.**

Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section
Watershed Protection Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Austin Water Utility
Special Services Division
3907 S. Industrial Drive, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78744-1070

The Bottom Line:

Improper pressure washing can be costly. An unauthorized discharge is a violation of City Code, is considered a Class C Misdemeanor, and is punishable with a fine of up to $2,000 per day per violation. It can also be costly to clean up wastewater from the ground, a storm drain or waterway due to improper pressure washing activities. Some cleaning agents contain hazardous ingredients. Cleaning agents also carry large quantities of dirt, grime, oil and grease that are toxic to aquatic and plant life. Some can promote the growth of algae blooms that deplete the oxygen needed by aquatic life. So, please help preserve Austin's valuable water resources by conducting appropriate pressure washing. For additional information, please feel free to contact the resources listed below.

Important Phone Numbers:

- **The Special Services Division of the Austin Water Utility**
  Regulates industrial wastewater discharges into the sanitary sewer system under Chapter 15-10 of Austin City Code.
  Office (512) 972-1060 or 24-Hour Pager (512) 802-8919

- **The Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section of the Watershed Protection Department**
  Regulates discharges to the storm sewer system and waterways under Title VI, Chapter 6-5 of Austin City Code
  24-Hour Pollution Hotline (512) 974-2550

- **BFI Landfill (512) 272-4327**

- **Waste Management Landfill (512) 272-4329**

City of Austin
WATERSHED PROTECTION

CHECKLIST OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PRESSURE WASHING

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the site prior to cleaning.
  - o Know the location of storm drains, oil/grit separators, and stormwater quality ponds on the lot and plan to keep wash water from reaching them.
  - o Know where the water collects and flows on the lot.
- ☐ Plan your collection method and how you will dispose of the wastewater from *each* site.
- ☐ Obtain necessary permits and authorizations.
- ☐ Make disposal arrangements in advance of the job.
- ☐ Receive authorization from the site owner to dispose of wash water in their car wash drain if they have a car wash.
- ☐ Pre-clean areas using dry methods;
  - o Pick up litter and debris; sweep up accumulated sediment and dirt.
  - o Use a dry sorbent to clean puddles, leaks, and spills.
  - o Clean heavy oil stains and slick spots by brushing in a mixture of granular clay, detergent and a small about of water. Let dry then sweep up for disposal.
  - o Seal sweepings and dry material in trash bags and discard in dumpster.
- ☐ Consider using plain, cold water to wash and minimize the amount used (reduces disposal volume).
- ☐ If you have to use a cleaning agent, choose a biodegradable one (less costly disposal).
  - o Biodegradable relates to the ability of the treatment plant to break down the product – not its ability to biodegrade in the natural environment.
  - o Ask the product manufacturer or distributor for a copy of the product's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The MSDS can help you determine if there are hazardous ingredients (acid, caustic, flammable solvent).
- ☐ If you choose to use a cleaning agent that contains a microbial product, follow the manufacturer's directions for use.
  - o Use only on stains and slick spots with a minimal amount of water to prevent runoff. Do not apply over a large area.
  - o Never flush to a storm sewer or waterway.
  - o Provide ample nutrients, water, and oxygen.
  - o Collect the cleaning agent for proper disposal.
- ☐ Contain and collect the wash water.
- ☐ Dispose of collected wash water properly. Never discharge it to a storm drain, oil/grit separator, or waterway.
- ☐ If on-site sanitary sewer disposal is not possible, store and transport wash water in accordance with applicable laws.
- ☐ Train all employees on pressure washing requirements. Provide the right equipment for the job.

PRESSURE WASHERS

	Company	Phone Number	Contact
♣	Austin H2O Plus	(512) 264-8842	Tim Williams
	Austin Pressure Wash	(512) 267-1873	Dana Lovell
♣	Austin Pressure Washers	(512) 267-5098	Paul Kelso
	Brian's Fleet Washing	(214) 808-7750	Kara Norsworthy
	Extreme Pressure Washers	(512) 785-4537	Charles Bowden
	Hill Country Pressure Washing	(512) 785-6455	Joel Armistead
	HLK Inc.	(512) 989-3111	Phil Kiger
♣	Max Powerwashing	(512) 554-1363	Troy Fulks
	Moore Pressure Cleaning	(210) 481-1530	Franklin Moore
♣	Mr. Ed's Cleaning Solutions	(512) 892-5869	Ed & Dianne Smith
	Precision Pressure Washing	(512) 689-3311	Ryan McCarley
♣	Pure Power Wash	(512) 906-9905	Ryan Harmon
	R & M Pressure Washing	(512) 627-2453	Randy Boatright
	Strait's Pressure Cleaning	(210) 422-4422	Ken Straight
	Superior Wash	(254) 458-9765	Frank Hatcher III
♣	Texas Power Washing	(512) 554-1368	Tony Pots
♣	Westlake powerwashing	(512) 913-2740	JT Hasty
♣	Xtreme Powerclean	(512) 282-9864	Donnie Jones

♣ Company claims to reclaim; pollutants from wash waters can not be discharged to the storm water collection system.

This list is provided by the Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section of the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department. If any company is discharging pollutants into the storm water collection system, call the 24-Hour Pollution Hotline at **512-974-2550.**

** This list was compiled from various advertisement listings and contacts with company representatives and does not represent all the pressure washing companies that exist. The Watershed Protection Department does not advocate any one company's products or services and is not responsible for their performance.

Updated: April 26, 2011 cp