



PACE Stormwater Newsletter

For Facilities Maintenance Departments

December 2005

Did you know that ANY wastewater discharge from your property is ILLEGAL - even wash water from pressure washing or surface cleaning?

Why? Because storm drains flow directly to streams and other waterways without filtration or treatment.

Did you know that SEDIMENT is the #1 water pollutant?

A major source of water pollution in the United States is urban stormwater runoff. Runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt flows over parking lots and streets - picking up dirt, oil, and other pollutants on the way to the nearest stream or lake.

We all want clean drinking water and healthy streams, so we all have to do our share to protect water!

PRESSURE WASHING - BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Dry Cleanup Methods should be used *PRIOR* to any pressure washing.

These include using absorbents (kitty litter, rags, sand, etc.) to clean up spills, sweeping, vacuuming, and scraping off dried debris.

During pressure washing operations (buildings, sidewalks, patios, decks), wash water must be captured for proper disposal!

Follow these steps for collecting wash water:

1. Identify where all storm drains are located.
2. Determine where water will pool for collection.
3. Use the following types of equipment to contain and collect wash water:
 - Booms/berms, portable containment areas
 - Weighted storm drain covers ▶
 - Inflatable plumber's plugs
 - Oil/water separators
 - Holding tanks
 - Portable sump pumps
 - Hoses
 - Absorbents
 - Vacuum pumps



WASH

A partnership of communities in the Boulder and Saint Vrain watersheds working together to protect our water quality.

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The PACE Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement to businesses and municipalities in Boulder County and portions of Weld County.

4. Once water is collected, dispose of it properly. Collected wash water may be disposed of into a sanitary sewer drain at the job site or at the contractor's place of business. Ask for permission from property owner and the local wastewater authority. (A permit may be required prior to disposal to the sanitary sewer.) **Do NOT dispose wastewater to a septic system!**

For surface cleaning operations near landscaped areas:

- ✓ If you do **NOT** use any chemicals or soap,
 - ✓ **And** are **ONLY** cleaning surfaces of ambient dust/dirt,
 - ✓ **Then** the wash water may be **directed to nearby landscaping and allowed to soak in**
 - ✓ **OR** it can be **contained on site and allowed to evaporate.**
- ✓ Most detergents used in cleaning activities, even those labeled "non-toxic" and "biodegradable," may cause immediate harm to fish and other wildlife.

Allowing materials or wash water to enter parking lots, streets, storm drains, and eventually creeks or other water bodies is *ILLEGAL!*

Please Protect Storm Drains!



REMEMBER... Municipal governments and private property owners are responsible for their contractors' practices! Ask your contractor to review WASH's Stormwater BMPs and write it into your contract!

Check out these companies for products to protect storm drains and collect wastewater: www.newpig.com www.grainger.com

For more information on stormwater:

www.basin.org/WASH

www.pacepartners.com

Contact Information:

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