

Building and Pavement Washing

The *County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program* supports businesses in their efforts to prevent pollution by offering these important Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).

- ! Water that is released into the streets, gutters, and storm drains in San Diego County is not treated before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. *These tips for building and pavement washing will help keep our waterways clean.*

Planning

- Identify whether hazardous wastes will be generated due to oil or grease on pavement, acid washing, lead-based paint chips, etc.
- Obtain all necessary permits and authorizations. Obtain permission from the property owner prior to disposing of wastewater on-site.

Setup

- Locate an area at the job site where wastewater can be easily contained and identify where you will dispose of the wastewater. Sub-contractors must also contain and recover wash water.
- Identify where all storm drains are located on and near the property.
- Temporarily protect storm drain inlets located in or near work areas.
- Ensure that you have the necessary equipment to retain and/or collect wastewater at the job site such as berms, portable containment area, storm drain covers, holding tanks, hoses or vacuum pumps.
- Use non-toxic and less hazardous alternatives of soaps, degreasers, or other cleaning agents.

more tips >>>

we can
**protect our
waterways**

with just
a few steps.



For more information, call the Stormwater Hotline at (888) 846-0800 or visit www.sandiegocounty.gov/dpw/watersheds.html for the WPO.

Washing

- ❑ Sweep, collect, and dispose of all debris that is on the ground prior to wet cleaning.
- ❑ Use absorbent materials such as kitty litter to clean oil spots; dispose of any absorbents according to all applicable laws and regulations.
- ❑ Collect and contain all wash water runoff for treatment, re-use, or proper disposal according to all applicable laws and regulations.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Wastewater resulting from the cleaning of engines, drive trains, airplanes, landing gear, trains, gas stations, or any type of acid washing **must always** be disposed of as a hazardous waste.

If power washing a surface that was painted prior to 1978, the paint may contain lead. It is your responsibility to determine whether the paint is lead-based prior to paint removal. If paint chips containing lead come off during cleaning, the wastewater will have special disposal requirements. Contact the County of San Diego at (858) 694-2888, and ask to speak with an Industrial Hygienist, for lead-based paint removal and disposal requirements.

Wastewater not containing any of the above mentioned pollutants may be disposed of to the sanitary sewer with prior approval from the sewer agency, to a permeable (dirt, landscaped) surface that is able to retain all the water, or collect and retain the water for offsite recycling or disposal.

- ⚠ Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the storm drain system or waterways is a violation of the County's Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). **Your business is required to comply with the WPO and the following minimum BMPs.**

thank you for doing your part to protect our waterways.



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