

Best Management Practices for Mobile Cleaning Activities

The City of Paso Robles is required to implement a Phase II Municipal Storm Water Program in order to reduce or eliminate the pollutants that enter our waterways from both storm water and non-storm water flows.

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our waterways. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in the waterways where they degrade water quality, harm aquatic life, and flow untreated to the ocean. In general, wastewater from mobile cleaning services that is discharged to the storm drains is illegal. The Paso Robles City Ordinance states that it is unlawful to discharge to any stream or watercourse any sewage, industrial wastes or other polluted water.

Mobile cleaning activities can generate significant quantity of wastewater as a result of their washing operations at various sites. Wastewater can contain dirt, debris, soap, oil, grease, acid solution, solvents, paint chips, metals, and/or food waste. Wastewater discharged to the storm drain system contributes to urban runoff pollution. Even “biodegradable” cleaning agents may cause immediate damage to aquatic ecosystems.

All contractors and individuals who perform cleaning operations can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to storm water pollution. This brochure describes some of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be used by mobile cleaners to achieve compliance with the storm water requirements.

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Methods of Collecting Wastewater

The following are examples of devices that may be used to contain and collect wastewater during cleaning activities. The collection devices described are not endorsed and are only provided as a reference tool. In addition, there may be other containment devices available, which are not shown. Note: When working with electrical equipment in wet environments, it is important to understand and comply with applicable health/safety and electrical codes, as well as utilize appropriate safety equipment.

Berms

Berms may be used to prevent wastewater from entering a storm drain by placing a protective barrier around the storm drain inlet, thus allowing wastewater to pool around the inlet prior to proper collection and disposal. This type of containment may be less effective or ineffective when the storm drain is located at the bottom of a slope and/or a large amount of wastewater is generated.



Storm Drain Covers/Mats

These devices are placed on top of the storm drain cover grate, creating a quick seal, thus preventing wastewater from entering the storm drain system. Storm drain covers/mats (magnetic vinyl mats, PVC drain covers, polyurethane mats, and others) allow wastewater to accumulate on top of it until the pressure washing activity is complete and the wash water can be collected for proper disposal. Storm drain covers/mats are frequently used along with a vacuum device that diverts wastewater into the sanitary sewer.



Containment Pools

A portable or temporary containment pool is another option which may be used to collect wash water. Containment pools are easy to assemble, provide an immediate work area, and allow wash water to be collected in a manner that will prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system. Containment pools vary in size and material and can also be used for washing equipment and vehicles.



Vacuums/Pumps

Devices such as wet/dry vacuums, sump pumps, and vacuum pumps may be used to collect and dispose of wash water after pressure washing. Vacuum devices typically have an extension (vacuum boom) which allows the water to be collected efficiently. In addition, many vacuum devices are equipped with a hose that can run from the pump to the sanitary sewer, a treatment device, or a holding tank depending on the disposal method.



Wastewater Disposal

The best disposal method of the wastewater from cleaning operations depends on what is being cleaned, the products used in the cleaning process, and the pollutants cleaned off of the surface.

Storm Drains

The storm drain system was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local waterways and the Salinas River without any treatment.

The storm drain can only be used as a disposal method for uncontaminated water that has not picked up any pollutants. Pollutants discharged to a dry storm drain or waterway can be washed away with storm water.

Sanitary Sewer

Discharge to sanitary sewer means a discharge into sink, toilet, or sanitary system cleanout for wastewater that has a pH of 6-9, and does not contain any contaminants considered to be hazardous waste. Approval of the wastewater agency may be needed and may require: compliance with local regulations or limits; initial sampling; installation of pre-treatment equipment; payment of connection fee; and/or obtaining a permanent or temporary wastewater discharge permit from the Industrial Waste Program.

Landscaping

Discharging to landscaping or a dirt area should only be done when the amount of wastewater can easily be absorbed, does not create any runoff, and there is no debris or residue that will be left on the surface. Wastewater may adversely affect landscaping; therefore, permission to discharge to the landscaping should be obtained from the property owner.

Small amounts of wastewater from mobile cleaning can be contained on a paved surface and allowed to evaporate. (The water should be able to evaporate within 12 hours and should not be in an area where it will be driven through.) If a significant amount of sediment has been left from evaporating wastewater on a paved surface, the paved area itself must be washed (and the wastewater discharged to the sanitary sewer) either before October 1 or at the end of the contract.

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

The following table includes BMPs and disposal methods related to different cleaning activities. This table does not include all activities or BMPs. If you have questions please call the City's Industrial Waste Program at 805-227-1654 or 805-227-7239.

Best Management Practices for Mobile Cleaning Activities					
Category/Activity	Washing or wastewater conditions	Storm Drains	Sanitary Sewer	Land-scaping	Best Management Practices
Transportation Related Washing					
Fleet Washing (Exterior)	Removing mainly dirt; with or without soap	No	Yes	Yes	<u>1st Choice:</u> use wash pads to capture wastewater & discharge to sewer. <u>2nd Choice:</u> seal storm drains; collect wastewater; discharge to sewer or landscaping.
Mobile Auto Cleaning (exterior only)	Infrequent, light cleaning; minimum water volume; remove mainly dirt with soap	No	Yes	Yes	<u>1st Choice:</u> small volume may remain on paved surface to evaporate; if significant flow, seal storm drain and discharge to sanitary sewer. <u>2nd Choice:</u> direct flow to landscaped area.
Car Dealers (Rinsing cars for Dust Removal)	Light dirt, no soap or solvents	No	Yes	Yes	<u>1st Choice:</u> discharge to landscaping or allow small amount of runoff to evaporate. <u>2nd Choice:</u> Collect & discharge to the sewer.
Semi Trailers and Boats (Truck trailer, interior cleaning)	Food related debris	No	Yes	No	Sweep, collect and dispose of food residue in garbage; use dry cleaning methods; avoid hosing down trailer; discharge any wastewater to the sewer.
Semi Trailers and Boats (Truck trailer, interior cleaning)	Trailer contained hazardous materials or waste.	No	No	No	If hazardous materials/waste is spilled in trailer, use dry cleaning methods only- do not hose down; protect storm drains. Contact Industrial Waste for permission to sewer or dispose of properly per State regulations.
Engine/ Equipment Degreasing (Airplane, Auto, Truck)	With or without soap; may contain petroleum products and metals	No	Yes Under Permit	No	Use wash pads to capture wastewater. Dispose of per State Regulations or obtain a wastewater discharge permit to sewer. Wastewater must be pretreated prior to discharge to sewer.
Acid Cleaning of Unpainted trucks/ Metal Containers	Contains acid based cleaners.	No	Yes Under Permit	No	Use wash pads to capture wastewater. Dispose of per State Regulations or obtain a wastewater discharge permit to sewer. Neutralize to pH between 6 and 9.

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Semi Trailers and Boats (Truck trailer, interior cleaning)	With or without soap. (Including removal of paint chips.)	No	Yes	No	Filter wastewater before discharge; dispose of paint particles properly in garbage or as hazardous waste.
Surface Cleaning					
Sidewalks, Driveways, Plazas	Using soap, no oil deposits	No	Yes	Yes	Sweep, collect and dispose of debris; direct discharge to landscaped area or sewer.
	No soap or oil deposits	No	Yes	Yes	Sweep, collect and dispose of debris; discharge to landscaping or sewer.
Drive through window areas, Service Stations (no fueling pads)	No soap or oil deposits	No	Yes	Yes	Sweep, collect and dispose of debris; dry clean oil spots, dispose of absorbent in trash; seal storm drain. Discharge to sewer or landscaped area if no oil sheen.
Drive through, Driveways, Parking garages, Service stations	With or without soap; excess oil deposits; not frequently cleaned	No	Yes with Permission	No	Seal storm drains; sweep, collect and dispose of debris; dry clean oil spots, dispose of absorbent to trash. Collect & discharge wastewater to sanitary sewer, via oil/ water separator if possible.
Service stations (gas pad)	With or without soap.	No	Check with Industrial Waste	No	Wastewater from gas pads will contain petroleum hydrocarbons. Permission to sewer wastewater must be obtained. The wastewater must be treated prior to being sewer.
Building Exteriors, Walls, and Graffiti Removal	Steel buildings, no soap	No	Yes	Yes	Direct wastewater to landscaped area. Collect and discharge to landscaping or sewer.
	Painted buildings (paint known to be lead free), no soap	No	Yes	Yes	If no paint chips, direct wastewater to landscaped area. If paint chips present, collect wastewater, filter out paint chips and dispose of to the trash, discharge wastewater to landscaped area or sewer.

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Building Exteriors, Walls, and Graffiti Removal (Continued)	Painted buildings with lead-based or mercury-additive paint, including cleaning for paint removal	No	No	No	Seal storm drains and pump wash-water to a tank; water and sludge may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste per State regulations. Consult with Industrial Waste and County Health.
	Using wet sand blasting (with no baking soda)	No	Yes	Yes	Minimize quantity of water used. Direct wastewater to landscaped area or collect wastewater and filter prior to discharging to the sewer.
	Using high pressure washing and cleaning compound	No	Yes	Yes	Seal storm drains; Check with Industrial Waste to discharge wastewater to sewer. Direct discharge to dirt area with owner permission.
Masonry	Using acid wash to remove mineral deposits	No	Yes with Permission	No	Seal/block storm drains. Collect washwater, neutralize to pH 6 to 9, Obtain permission to discharge to sewer.
Food Service Related Cleaning					
Restaurant & Grocery Alleys, Dumpster Areas (outdoors)	With or without soap	No	Yes	No	<u>1st Choice</u> : dry clean only (using rags, absorbents, sweeping debris). <u>2nd Choice</u> : dry clean first, seal storm drain, wash area, screen out particles, & discharge wastewater to sewer.
Restaurant Cleaning of Floor mats, Exhaust Filters, Etc.	Detergent and cleaners	No	Yes	No	<u>1st Choice</u> : clean mats inside building and discharge to sink or floor drain. <u>2nd Choice</u> : clean mats outside in bermed area; collect & discharge wastewater to sewer.

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Kitchen (Fats, Oil, & Grease)	Recyclable oil, grease, and meat fat	No	No	No	Save for used oil for recycling in sealed containers; never pour into sink, floor or storm drain. Dry wipe pots & pans and place grease and fat into a bag & dispose of to the trash.
	Grease from interceptor or trap	No	No	No	Never dispose of waste grease in storm drain or sanitary sewer; Store in sealed containers and contact disposal company.
Grocery Carts	Using soap	No	Yes	No	Remove large particles & place in trash. Capture wastewater; filter particles; discharge to sanitary sewer.
	No soap	No	Yes	Yes	Remove large particles. Collect washwater; filter particles; discharge to sewer or landscaping.
Lunch Wagons/Food Carts	With or without soap	No	Yes	No	Wastewater must be collected, filtered and discharged to sewer. Only melted ice may drain to storm drain.
Miscellaneous Cleaning/Other Activities					
Mobile Homes, Decks, Roofs, Awnings, Residential/ Commercial Pool Decks (with paint known to be lead free)	Using Soap	No	Yes	Yes	Direct wastewater to a landscaped area or to sewer. Treated or painted wood maybe treated with chemicals which may not be discharged to the sewer or landscaped areas.
	No Soap	No	Yes	Yes	Direct discharge to landscaped area or collect and discharge to sewer.
Mobile Pet Care	Using soap, topical medications and/or flea/tick control shampoos, dips and related pest control fluids	No	Yes	No	Filter wastewater and properly dispose of fur/excess hair and other solids; discharge to sewer.

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	No pest control fluids, topical medications	No	Yes	No	Filter wastewater and properly dispose of fur/excess hair and other solids, before discharging to sewer or landscaped area with owners permission.
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners	Soaps	NO	YES	Yes	<u>1st Choice:</u> discharge wastewater to the sewer. <u>2nd Choice:</u> filter wastewater and discharge to landscaped area with owners permission.

If you have cleaning products or chemicals to dispose of from your cleaning business, please call 805-481-9213 or look in the recycling guide under hazardous waste in the AT&T Yellow Pages to determine how to best dispose of them. **NEVER** dispose of left over or out dated chemicals or cleaning products to a storm drain, natural outlet or the sewer.

For additional information on the City's Storm Water Program, please visit www.prcity.org or call 805-227-7240

A valid City Business License is required to work in the City of Paso Robles.

Note: Storm water requirements may vary in the different City's and in the County of San Luis Obispo. Check with the jurisdiction that you are working in to determine the correct disposal method.