

Pinellas County stormwater regulations

Pinellas County's stormwater ordinance, Article VI, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitat of creeks, lakes and marine waters that receive discharge from our drainage system. The ordinance states that any discharge to the drainage system or to a waterway that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited. This means that pollutants of any kind, including contaminated wash water, detergents, and construction materials may **not enter the street, stormdrain or gutter**. Violators of the stormwater ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day, and payment for cleanup costs may be required.

Only rain down the drain!

This brochure is one of a series describing urban pollution prevention measures. To request additional brochures, please contact Pinellas County Environmental Management at (727) 464-4425.

For more information

on what YOU can do to keep our waterways clean, our watersheds healthy or to report pollution, call the **Environmental Management Hotline** at (727) 464-4425 or email us at watershed@pinellascounty.org.



Pinellas County Public Works

Environmental Management
(727) 464-4425

www.pinellascounty.org/environment



Best Management Practices for Power Washing



The Better Way to Wash

Power washing best practices



Best Management Practices or BMPs are procedures that should be used to prevent pollutants, such as contaminated wash water, from entering our stormdrains and polluting our waterways.

- Use dry cleanup methods - mops, brooms, rags or wire brushes to clean pavement, buildings and equipment as much as possible before pressure washing. Then use vacuums or other machines to remove and collect loose debris before applying water.
- Prior to washing, protect all stormdrains and create a containment area with berms, rubber mats and tarps or take advantage of low ground to keep wash water contained. Make sure this practice does not flood the area or affect vehicle or pedestrian traffic. Pump or vacuum up all wash water in the contained area.
- **Never** dispose of wash water into the street, stormdrains, drainage ditches or streams.
- Use phosphate free detergents.

- Wash vehicles and equipment on grassy or gravel areas so that the wash water can seep into the ground.
- Minimize water use by using high-pressure, low volume nozzles.
- With the property owner's permission, pump or pour the wash water to landscaped areas that will not run off to a stormdrain. Otherwise, drain it to the sanitary sewer through an interior building drain, sink or private sewer clean-out. Discharges to sewers should not contain hazardous materials, grease, grit or any material that could clog piping.



- The remaining sediments should be swept or vacuumed up.
- Do not wash equipment or vehicles outdoors on days when rain is probable.

A word about 'biodegradable' soaps

'Biodegradable' is a popular marketing term that can be misleading. Because a product is labeled as biodegradable doesn't mean that it is non-toxic. Some products are more toxic than others, but none are harmless to aquatic life. Soapy water entering the stormdrain system can impact fish and other wildlife within hours.

Power washing and the ecosystem

Power washing is any activity that uses a water pressure system, including steam cleaning, to clean vehicles, equipment, sidewalks, buildings, dumpsters or other impervious surfaces. In addition to water, detergents, degreasers and other products may be used in commercial power washing.

Who can you contact?

To report illegal dumping, or for more information, call (727) 464-4425, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions on waste disposal, contact Pinellas County Solid Waste at (727) 464-7500. For 24 hour voicemail (non-emergency spills only), call (727) 464-5060.



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