



Best Management Practices

For Restaurants and Food Handling Facilities

Dispose of Grease and Oil Safely

Maintain, pump, and use grease traps and interceptors regularly to prevent overflows. Keep grease bins covered and contained. Recycle grease and oil. Reduce the amount of grease washed down the drain by scraping off trays, grills, and pans into a grease can. Do not pour grease and oil into sinks, floor drains, parking lots or streets. For removal of waste grease, search for "grease trap cleaning" online.

Clean Spills

For small spills or drips, put absorbent material like kitty litter on the spill to contain it. Sweep up the used absorbent, place in a secure bag, and deposit in a secure trash bin. For larger spills that could reach storm drains, call 719-385-5980. If a spill threatens public health, call 911. If a spill is too large to clean up with kitty litter call an environmental cleaning company to professionally clean up the spill.

Maintain Garbage Dumpsters

Keep garbage dumpster lids closed to keep rain and rodents out and to prevent illegal dumping. Keep litter from accumulating around docks by providing trash receptacles and encouraging employees to use them. Never dispose of liquids in the dumpster. Inspect for leaks on a regular basis and have bins replaced when necessary.

Power Washing

Description

Wastewater from power washing must not be allowed to enter the storm sewer system and must be disposed of properly. Power washing combined with proper wastewater collection can prevent or reduce fine-grained sediment particles, anti-freeze, oil, paint, or trash from polluting stormwater.

When services are contracted, this written procedure should be provided to the contractor so they have the proper operational procedures. In addition, the contract should specify that the contractor is responsible for abiding by all applicable municipal, state, and federal codes, laws, and regulations.

Procedures

General

- Use dry methods for surface pre-cleaning, such as using absorbent on small oil spots and sweeping up trash, debris, dirt, and used absorbent before power washing.



- Minimize the amount of water used during power washing activities.
- Avoid using cleaning products that contain hazardous substances (e.g., hydrofluoric acid, muriatic acid, sodium hydroxide, bleach) that can turn wastewater into hazardous waste.

Wastewater Collection

- Identify the locations of all storm drains in the area and place inlet protection or drain covers at all locations, as needed.
- Locate high and low spots on the property to determine the area where wastewater will be pooled for collection.
- Equipment to contain and collect wastewater generated by power washing includes: vacuum pumps, booms, berms, portable containment areas, weighted storm drain covers, inflatable plumber's plugs, oil and water separators, holding tanks, portable sump pumps, hoses, and absorbent pads.
- Avoid mixing non-hazardous wastewater with wastewater known to contain hazardous substances or hazardous levels of pollutants. Mixing these wastes may increase the characteristic and/or total volume of waste, resulting in more expensive disposal and additional regulatory requirements.
- Place an oil-absorbent mat or pad on top of collected wastewater to help reduce the amount of oil re-deposited on the surface of the collection area.
- Wastewater can be filtered through an oil absorbent boom or oil/water separator and a filter to decrease the concentration of oil in the liquid and the amount of solids in the wastewater.
- Once wastewater has been collected, visible solids remaining in the collection area after liquids have evaporated must be swept up and properly disposed to prevent future discharges to the storm sewer system.

Wastewater Disposal

- Do not dispose of power washing wastewater into the storm sewer system.
- Power washing wastewater may be disposed of in an inside drain connected to the sanitary sewer system with the permission of the wastewater treatment plant (may require a permit) and the facility owner where the work is being performed. Collected wastewater can also be discharged to the sanitary sewer system at the power washer's place of business with the permission of the wastewater treatment plant, or can be taken directly to a wastewater treatment plant.
- Do not remove sewer manhole covers to dispose of wastewater to the sanitary sewer system without prior approval.
- Power washing wastewater may be discharged to landscaped areas if it is not harmful to vegetation, there is no ponding, and there is no runoff from the site to the storm sewer system.

Report Spills and Dumping to the Spill Hotline
719-491-6096

