
Plan Before You Start

When performing wet cleaning work outdoors, preparation up front is the best way to keep harmful pollutants out of waterways. It's always easier to prevent pollution than it is to clean it up after the fact.

Remember the 3 C's:

Control

Control your workspace. Perform as much dry cleaning as possible before you start using water. Remove any harmful chemicals or debris from the immediate area.

Contain

Contain any water that reaches the ground. When you perform washing and spraying the water picks up contaminants and is no longer clean. Take steps to ensure none of this water leaves your working area.

Capture

Capture the dirty water and dispose of it properly. The best disposal method depends on what contaminants the water has picked up – see inside for specific guidelines.

For more information, please call the
Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District
Stormwater Program at
(707) 644-8949 ext. 1600

To report a spill, call the
24-Hour Hotline at
(707) 644-8949

For emergencies, dial **911**.



450 Ryder Street
Vallejo, California 94590
Phone: 707.644.8949
www.VallejoWastewater.org

Stormwater Tips for Mobile Washers



*Helpful hints for proper
automobile, power, and
pressure washing.*

Tips for Proper Power Washing



Many people believe that water entering storm drains in streets and parking lots travels through the sewer and gets treated at the wastewater plant. Not true!

This water, called *stormwater*, flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers and the Bay. Allowing chemicals, oil and other contaminants to flow into these drains not only damages our environment, it is also violates federal, state and local laws.

Follow these Best Management Practices to ensure a clean work area and prevent pollution:

Planning: Examine the area before you begin work. Identify all storm drains and the slope of the ground to determine how water will flow and how to protect those drains. Block off water's access to the drains using the best method available (e.g. rubber drain mats, berms, etc.)

Obtain permission from the property owner if you plan to discharge to their sanitary sewer system.

Pre-Cleaning: Use dry methods to pre-clean as much of the surface as possible. Clean up any oil or grease with absorbent pads, booms or powder. Sweep or vacuum up dirt, debris and trash. Remove this dry waste from the work area before beginning to use water.

Washing: Use as little water as possible to complete the job. This will minimize the amount you have to collect and dispose of. Avoid using cleaners with harsh chemicals or solvents, and use heat and pressure whenever possible to reduce the need for chemicals.

Capturing: In the Planning step, you should have identified a low spot in your work area to collect the runoff water, or made use of a temporary containment pool or wash bib. As you are working, verify that all water is being captured by your containment measure and none is escaping to the street, gutter or storm drain.

Disposal: This water has picked up contaminants during the cleaning process and should NEVER be poured, pumped or dumped in the street or down a storm drain. Use a portable pump, wet/dry vac or mop

and bucket to dispose of the captured water to the sanitary sewer, through a sewer clean-out, sink or toilet. Be sure to first obtain permission from the property owner. Water containing hazardous materials must be removed by a licensed hazardous waste hauler.

- If the wash water contains large amounts of debris or particles (e.g. sediment, paint chips, etc.), a filter should be used on the pump. Once the water is removed, dispose of the debris with dry cleaning measures.
- Water containing grease, cooking oil or other food debris should be discharged so that it flows through a grease trap/vault.
- All discharges to the sanitary sewer must comply with the District's discharge standards (Section 4.12.080 of the District Code). The code can be found on our website at www.VallejoWastewater.org.