



PRESSURE WASHING OPERATIONS – BMP FACTSHEET 2.7



U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA

Definition and Purpose

To prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to stormwater. To provide guidance on the correct procedures, operations, and pollution prevention practices when performing pressure washing operations. The goal of regulating these procedures is to prevent unnecessary and unlawful discharges of harmful pollutants into our waterways. Facility owners will be required to comply with various safeguard requirements as per the new VAR0092771 Industrial Stormwater Permit.



It is very important to follow the proper procedures and guidelines that will be discussed in this factsheet so that byproducts of pressure washing activities **do not** come into contact with stormwater. If proper procedures are not followed, harmful pollutants can migrate by means of stormwater run-off into our natural waterways.

Exterior cleaning/pressure washing is necessary to keep buildings and equipment in good condition and to increase curb appeal. However, many of the activities involved in the process of pressure washing can result in water pollution if proper measures are not taken.

Approach

The new permit authorizes certain new and existing discharges of stormwater to receiving waters in accordance with your facility's effluent limitations and includes the development and implementation of BMPs (Best Management Practices). In order to

ensure BMPs are being implemented, visual inspections and sampling of stormwater outfalls will be performed periodically and during the course of the SWPPP annual inspections and permit driven inspections.

Existing and New Facilities: When compliance investigations or routine stormwater audits for current facilities indicate impacts to water resources due to poor management practices, ENRD can evaluate and provide guidance when taking action to address any problems identified. Infrastructure and equipment, in addition to BMP implementation, are evaluated during inspections. To minimize the potential for compliance issues and to reduce liability, the recommendations in this document should be followed at all times.



Pressure Washing and Potential Pollutants

Pressure washing buildings, equipment, and pavement can dislodge harmful pollutants such as oils, grease, sealants, paint, and debris. These materials, in addition to any solvents or detergents being used, can flow untreated into storm drains if preventative measures are not taken. Allowing untreated wastewater to enter storm drains pollutes local waterways and is a violation of local, state, and federal laws.

Apply Best Management Practices (BMPs)

When performing ANY pressure washing activity ALL of these BMP Guidelines MUST be followed:

- Pre-clean the area before pressure washing by collecting litter, sweeping, scraping, and using absorbents to remove oil and grease stains prior to pressure washing. This practice conserves water and reduces stormwater contamination.
- Wastewater from pressure washing **MUST** be collected to prevent pollutants in wash water from entering storm drains.
- Plug or place boons or storm drain mats around inlets to avoid discharging pollutants directly into storm drains.
- Use cleaners and detergents sparingly, if at all. If chemicals, solvents, or other hazardous materials are used, wash waters **MUST** be contained and disposed of properly. DPW-ENRD should be consulted if any products are to be used during pressure washing activities.
- Clean up remaining residue or debris by sweeping. Otherwise, the next time it rains these materials will be discharged down the nearest storm drain.



Wastewater Collection: Wastewater can be collected from its containment using a wet vacuum, a sump pump, or a vacuum pump. It is important to collect your wastewater because any pollutants left on the pavement will eventually be carried into a nearby storm drain by rainwater. Wastewater that contains soap, detergent, cleaning products, hazardous waste, or large amounts of any other pollutant cannot be left on paved surfaces. Plastic tanks can be used to temporarily store wastewater until it can be properly disposed of.



Wastewater and Debris Disposal

- Collected debris from pre-cleaning activities can be disposed of as normal refuse. All used absorbents and other potential hazardous wastes should be disposed of properly (refer to Fort Belvoir's Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Plan).
- Collected wastewater should be disposed of using the sanitary sewer system. If this condition cannot be met, contact DPW/ENRD for additional guidance.



For questions and additional information
contact DPW / ENRD at
703-805-0048 or 703-806-3847