



Pressure Washing Best Management Practice (BMP) Program Mobile Vehicle and Equipment Washing and Detailing

What is Mobile Pressure Washing?

Pressure washing is defined as "power washing, steam cleaning, and any other mobile cosmetic cleaning operation (with or without detergents or chemical additives) of various surfaces including, but not limited to, transportation-related, structural and food-related cleaning engaged in for commercial purposes."

What are the potential hazards from mobile pressure washing?

Wash water from vehicle and equipment operations contains a variety of pollutants, which can harm aquatic life and the environment and contaminate recreational sites and drinking water supplies, *even if cleaning solutions are labeled nontoxic or biodegradable.*

The activity of vehicle/equipment washing/steam cleaning has the potential to contribute metals, oil and grease, detergents, degreasing chemicals, solvents, phosphates, organics, acids, caustics and suspended solids to the storm water drainage system and receiving waters.

Disposing of these materials into storm drains, ditches, and gutters is **prohibited** by law.

Regulations Prohibiting Non-Storm Water Surface Discharge:

- City of La Quinta Municipal Code Section 8.70
- State of California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Division 7, Chapter 5.5, Section 13376
- Federal Clean Water Act, 40 CFR Parts 122-124
- City's NPDES Storm Water Permit (Whitewater MS4 Permit)

What are Best Management Practices (BMP's)?

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are procedures that help prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. BMP requirements for mobile vehicle/equipment washing include:

Minimize Pollutants Generated.

- Use a mop or rags to pre-clean the vehicle or equipment.
- Minimize water use by using high pressure, low volume nozzles.
- Use the minimal amount and least toxic detergents (Phosphate Free or Biodegradable) and degreasers to complete the job.

Contain and Collect Wash Water.

- All wash water containment and removal equipment shall be installed and operational prior to commencement of any cleaning processes or wastewater generation activities.
- Common equipment used for containing and collecting wastewater generated during pressure washing activities includes: vacuum pumps, booms/berms, portable containment areas/mats, weighted storm drain covers, inflatable plumber's plugs, oil/water separators, holding tanks, portable sump pumps, hoses, and absorbents.
- Storm drain inlets located within or down grade of wash areas shall be covered or otherwise protected to prevent entry of wash water.
- Vacuum booms shall be used at all times and arranged in such a fashion to direct all wastewater generated in the vacuum ports in the vacuum boom.
- All wastewater recovery equipment shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Properly Dispose of Wash Water.

- All wastewater generated from cleaning activities shall be collected and treated for reuse or drained to the sanitary sewer through an interior building drain, sink or private sewer clean-out **with the owner's permission.**
- All discharges to the sanitary sewer must be in accordance with local sanitary sewer disposal regulations.
- Treatment to remove solids, oil and grease residual may be required.
- No hazardous waste, such as engine degreasers or toxic wheel cleaners, shall be discharged to the sanitary sewer system.
- **Contact Coachella Valley Water District (760) 398-2651** for proper sewer disposal methods if you are unsure of the constituents.

Only Rain Down the Storm Drain.

- At no time shall any wastewater be discharged to the storm drain system. This includes driveways, streets, and gutters.

Leave No Residue Behind.

- Any wash chemical residue generated shall be rinsed from the surface and removed with the wastewater.
- No wash chemical residue is to remain on the washing surface.

Businesses conducting pressure washing activities within the City must comply with all above BMP's. Businesses that do not adequately implement these BMP's are in violation of City of La Quinta Municipal Code and are subject to enforcement actions.

For More Information

Please call City of La Quinta's Public Works Department at **(760) 777-7075** for questions regarding proper implementation of the BMP's.

**Remember to Keep La Quinta Clean...
ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!**