



# Pressure Washing Best Management Practice (BMP) Program Mobile Surface Cleaning

## 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 surface cleaning?

Mobile surface cleaning activities generate significant quantities of wash water as a result of washing operations at various sites, *even if cleaning solutions are labeled nontoxic or biodegradable.*

**Wash water can contain dirt, debris, soap, oil, grease, acid solution, solvents, paint chips, metals, and/or food wastes that can harm aquatic life and the environment.**

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

Regulations Prohibiting Non-Storm Water Surface Discharge:

- Corona Municipal Code Section 13.27.050
- 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

## 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 pressure washing of driveways, courtyards, sidewalks, parking lots, and building exteriors include:

### Use Alternative Dry Clean-up Methods Wherever Possible.

- Use mops, brooms, rags, or wire brushes to clean pavement, buildings, and equipment and collect loose debris.

### Use Dry Methods for Surface Pre-cleaning Whenever Possible.

- Dry methods such as absorbents can be used to pick up greasy or oily spills, and sweeping or vacuuming can pick up litter, debris, or saturated absorbents.
- Know which pre-cleaning wastes may be hazardous.

## Avoid Using Soap and Other Cleaning Products that can Contain Hazardous Substances.

- *Even biodegradable soap is harmful to the environment.*

## Minimize Water Use.

- Water use can be minimized by using high pressure, low volume nozzles.
- If necessary, use minimal amount and least toxic detergents and degreasers to complete the job, such as phosphate free detergents.

## Contain and Collect Wash Water.

- Decide the best method of collection (e.g. berms, sandbags, storm drain cover mats, vacuums/pumps, vacuum booms, etc.).
- Avoid mixing non-hazardous wash water with wash water known to contain hazardous levels of pollutants.

## Properly Dispose of Wash Water.

- Wash water from cleaning unpainted building exteriors, sidewalks, or courtyards may be directed to landscaped or unpaved areas if all of the following are true:
  1. Discharge does not contain hazardous waste.
  2. Cleaning is done with water only (no soap, detergent, emulsifier, solvent, etc.).
  3. Discharge will not cause flooding or nuisance problems.
  4. Owner's permission is granted.
- Wash water from surface cleaning of painted building exteriors, sidewalks, courtyards, parking areas, drive-throughs, food service facility dumpster/grease containment areas, etc. may be disposed to the sanitary sewer through an interior building drain, sink or private sewer clean-out with the owner's permission if all of the following are true:
  1. Successful dry cleanup methods (surface pre-cleaning) have been used.
  2. Discharge does not contain hazardous waste.
  3. Local sanitary sewer disposal regulations have been followed (contact City of Corona Source Control at 279-3594 if you are unsure of the constituents as pre-treatment of the wastewater may be required).

All 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 Corona Municipal Code and are subject to enforcement actions.

## For More Information

Please call City of Corona's Storm Water Section at **(951) 736-2248** for questions regarding proper implementation of the BMP's.

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