

Cleaning Pavements



High pressure washing or hosing down of hard surface areas, such as pavement, sidewalks, patios, driveways, and parking lots, contribute to ocean pollution. Hazardous pollutants from hard surfaces are picked up by the wash water and carried untreated to local waterways via the storm drain system. Never let polluted wash water enter the storm drain.

Proper Cleaning Methods

Use proper cleanup and disposal practices. Have procedures in place for cleanup of different types of spills (dirt, oil, grease, car fluids, paint, cleaning fluids, chemicals or hazardous wastes).

- ◆ Create cleanup kits and place in areas where spills are likely to occur.
- ◆ Spills must be immediately cleaned from the ground surface.
- ◆ Use dry cleanup methods, such as a broom, vacuum, absorbent material or scraper when possible.
- ◆ For liquid spills:
 - ◆ Use rags or absorbents (cat litter, sand, etc.) to soak up the spill.
 - ◆ Use a stiff broom to rub absorbents into spills then sweep up all material into a sealable container. Do not leave contaminated absorbents on the ground.
 - ◆ Contact the Household Hazardous Materials Program at (858) 694-7000 for proper disposal information.
- ◆ Avoid hazardous cleaning products that can create hazardous waste.
- ◆ If water is needed, use a mop to clean.



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to discharge wash water from pressure washing or hosing down pavement, sidewalks, patios, driveways, and parking lots into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Control, Contain, Capture

When using a hose or power washing equipment to clean, you MUST have a plan to contain, capture and dispose of the water you use.

- ◆ **Control:** Use methods or tools that allow you to better manage your work area, such as sectioning off your activity into smaller units, sweeping up debris, cleaning with a mop or using a trigger nozzle.
- ◆ **Contain:** Isolate the work area by blocking water and/or debris from leaving the area and entering the storm drain. Try using sandbags, berms or booms to contain the water.
- ◆ **Capture:** Once the job is complete, be sure to clean up the area and properly dispose of pollutants and debris. Sweep or vacuum debris and use a mop or wet vacuum to collect contaminated runoff.



Wash Water Disposal

Never allow wash water to flow into a street, alleyway, ditch or storm drain. Capture and collect the wash water and properly dispose of it.

With the property owner's permission, wash water can be drained onto landscaped areas provided it can be absorbed by the soil without runoff or soil contamination. Wash water may also be collected and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system such as an onsite sink, toilet or lateral cleanout. For rules concerning sanitary sewer system disposal, contact the Industrial Wastewater Control Program at (858) 654-4100.



Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants - including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids - all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

