

MORE INFO

- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [City of Abilene Environmental Recycling Center](#)
- [City of Abilene - Waste Disposal Information](#)
- [Texas 8-1-1 Call Before You Dig](#)
- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)
- [National Municipal Stormwater Alliance](#)
- [National Assoc. of Clean Water Agencies](#)



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MOBILE WASHING & RUNOFF

Save Our Waterways
Clean Water, Healthy Life

Stormwater Services Division

MOBILE WASHING

Mobile washing has recently become a growing industry. There are various mobile washing services, which may include:

- Exterior building or house washing
- Sidewalk or parking lot cleaning
- Brick or stone restoration
- Wet sandblasting
- Environmental fleet washing
- Graffiti Removal

POLLUTANTS FROM MOBILE WASHING

Some examples of chemicals, compounds and substances contained in wastewater as a result of cleaning operations are:

- Caustic (high pH) or acidic (low pH) water-based cleaning compounds.
- Toxic organic compounds contained in cleaning solvents and paint strippers.
- Toxic substances such as automotive fluids (e.g. motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid and transmission fluid) and heavy metals such as zinc, copper and lead.
- Biodegradable wastes such as oil and grease, yard clippings and discarded food.
- Aggregate runoff such as silt, gravel and litter.

Remember, contaminants that enter our drainage ways will eventually enter our local creeks and lakes, which provides Abilene with its valuable drinking water source.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

These BMPs are intended to aid the mobile washer to prevent the entry of industrial wastewater into the storm drain system.

- Walk the area to be cleaned prior to the start of the job and identify all area drains, yard drains, emergency drains, drainage channels and sumps where wastewater could be released to the storm drain system.
- Block or seal off all identified release points with sand bags, plugs, rubber mats, containment pads or temporary berms.
- Sweep all surfaces prior to washing so as to minimize the amount of debris (soil) and grit contained in the industrial wastewater.
- Collect all trash, litter and debris from the area and place in a proper trash bin or waste receptacle for disposal.
- Use absorbents such as mats or pads, rice hull ash, cat litter, vermiculite or sand to soak up spilled liquids.



BMP CONT....

- Sweep, vacuum, shovel and/or wipe up these saturated absorbents and dispose of properly.
- Screen all chemicals and compounds used for cleaning and eliminate the use of those that contain toxic organic compounds, heavy metals, high levels of phosphates, or very high/very low pH.
- Maintain equipment in good working order and routinely test all safety features.
- Utilize all-purpose absorbent booms at the discharge point to the storm drain system to remove pollutants from wastewater.
- Collect the wastewater for discharge to the sewer system.
- Ensure that the wastewater temperature is less than 140 degrees F prior to sewer discharge.
- Filter the wastewater if it contains a large amount of suspended solids that could cause sewer blockage.
- Maintain a logbook of all discharges.

Addition of pollutants via mobile washing, pressure washing or cosmetic cleaning is a violation of federal, state and local regulations. Failure to comply with these regulations could result in enforcement actions up to and including citations and fines.