

WHERE SHOULD WASH WATER GO?

Landscaping or unpaved surfaces

Wash water from cleaning unpainted building exteriors, sidewalks, or plazas can go onto landscaping or unpaved surfaces if

- The discharge does not contain hazardous waste,
- The discharge will not cause flooding or nuisance problems or flow to a creek, and
- You have the owner's permission.

Down a sink, toilet, or cleanout through the sewer to a wastewater treatment plant

Wash water from surface cleaning of painted building exteriors, dumpster pads, sidewalks, plazas, parking areas, gas stations, drive-throughs, food service grease containment areas, etc., is permitted to go down a sink, toilet, or sewer cleanout if

- You have used dry cleanup methods before washing with or without cleaning chemicals;
- Gravel, pebbles, dense grit, paint chips, or debris are screened out before being placed into the sink, toilet, or cleanout;
- The discharge does not contain hazardous waste; and
- You or the property owner have checked the local wastewater treatment plant's requirements before discharge to the sewer.

To the Street or Storm Drain

Wash water from cleaning sidewalks, plazas, and building exteriors can be discharged to the storm drain if

- You have successfully used dry cleanup methods [described in the Tips section of this folder to remove fresh oil stains, debris, and similar pollutants before using water];
- Cleaning is done with water only—no cleaning chemicals; and
- Water has no paint or grit particles.



CLEANING AND DISPOSAL

Sidewalks, Plazas

Cleaning Method

- Dry cleanup first, Wash without cleaning chemicals
- Block the storm drain or contain the runoff
- Dry cleanup, then wash with cleaning chemicals

Proper Disposal

- Screen wash water, if needed, to catch debris, then discharge to landscaping or to a gutter, street, or storm drain
- Collect water and pump to the sewer

Parking areas, driveways, gas stations, and drive-throughs

Cleaning Method

- Block the storm drain or contain runoff
- Use absorbents to pick up oil then dry sweep
- Clean with or without cleaning chemicals

Proper Disposal

- Collect water and pump to the sewer

Restaurant/food handling dumpster pad areas; grease storage

Cleaning Method

- Block the storm drain or contain runoff

Proper Disposal

- If you must use water after sweeping/using absorbents, collect water and pump to the sewer

Building surfaces, decks, etc. without loose paint

Cleaning Method

- Dry cleanup
- Use high-pressure water with no cleaning chemicals

Proper Disposal

- Screen wash water, if needed, to catch debris, then discharge to landscaping or to a gutter, street, or storm drain

Unpainted building surfaces, wood, decks, etc

Cleaning Method

- Block the storm drain or contain runoff
- Use cleaning chemicals or acid wash to remove deposits, wood restorer, or other chemicals

Proper Disposal

- Make sure the pH is between 6 and 10 then discharge to landscaping or Collect wash water in a tank and pump to the sewer

POLLUTION FROM SURFACE CLEANING

City of Brentwood

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

In Brentwood, storm drains are pathways for pollution traveling directly from streets, gutters, and other paved surfaces to local waterbodies and wetlands. Wash water from surfaces often carries pollutants that can harm wildlife species that depend on healthy water

WHERE DO THESE POLLUTANTS COME FROM?

Three phases of the cleaning process can cause problems for the environment:

- Using harmful cleaning chemicals including soaps, bleach, and solvents
- Removing toxic materials such as oil, antifreeze, and grease from parking lots, sidewalks, or other surfaces
- Generating polluted wash water from activities such as pressure washing buildings, parking lots, and gas stations



WHAT SORTS OF POLLUTANTS OR WASTE CAN SURFACE CLEANING GENERATE?

Pollutants include the following:

- Sediment and grit
- Soaps, cleaning chemicals, and solvents
- Wash water containing paint chips or lead paint chips
- Hydrocarbon runoff
- Oil-saturated absorbents (typically resulting from cleaning)

