Environmental Quality Management

PRESSURE WASHERS AND STEAM CLEANERS

WWW.UKY.ENV/STORMWATER

Pressure washing and steam cleaning activities have the potential to impact stormwater through the uncontrolled runoff of debris-laden water. The University's MS4 Permit only allows clean water discharges into the stormwater system and requires that the University implement Best Management Practices to prevent the discharge of pollutants from campus. By operating pressure washers and steam cleaners properly, debris and other pollutants can be prevented from entering the storm sewer system.

DO

- ✓ Prevent discharges from pressure washing activities from entering the storm sewer. The discharge may be vacuumed to contain the process water and allowed to evaporate, disposed of in the sanitary sewer, or directed to a grassy area away from storm drains, depending upon its contents.
- ✓ Remove dirt from heavy equipment outdoors and direct flow to BMPs for outdoor cleaning operations.
- ✓ Use water only (no soap or chemicals) for outdoor cleaning.
- ✓ Collect all wastewater from water-based or solvent-based degreasing operations in drip pans.
- ✓ Conduct a hazardous waste determination for collected degreasing wastes.
- ✓ Store drip pan waste in clearly labeled drums and conduct a hazardous waste determination.
- ✓ Contact UK Environmental Quality Management for disposal of collected degreasing waste.
- ✓ Operate the pressure washer according to the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- ✓ Use only designated vehicle wash areas when cleaning equipment. Refer to the Activity Information Sheet *on Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning and Maintenance* for more information.



Required Training: 1 per year

Relevant UK Departments:

- Environmental Quality Management
- Facilities Management
- Grounds

DON'T

- ✗ Don't use soaps or detergents for outdoor cleaning operations.
- ✗ Don't degrease outdoors.
- ✗ Don't allow pressure washer overspray to get on building walls or doors.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS/INFORMATION

- ➲ Cleaning operation means removing deicers or dirt from equipment and vehicles using water only.
- ➲ Degreasing operation means using the pressure washer with water or solvents to remove materials such as grease, tar, and oils from engines, vehicles, and equipment.
- ➲ The preferred discharge location for pressure washer cleaning operations is to a floor drain that is connected to a sanitary sewer system.
- ➲ Soaps and detergents can cause emulsions and lead to failure of oil/water separators.
- ➲ If solvents or degreasing wastes are spilled, contain the spill and clean up using a spill kit**.**
- ➲ If collected degreasing waste determination states the waste is hazardous, contact Environmental Quality Management for proper disposal. DO NOT dispose of the waste in streams, storm drains, sanitary sewers, or sinkholes.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Identify and approve work locations and conditions for pressure washers BEFORE beginning work.
- ☐ Check use of pressure washers ANNUALLY to ensure proper procedures are being followed.
- ☐ Check runoff from outdoor use at random SEVERAL TIMES PER YEAR to ensure that use will not cause a violation of the permit requirements.
- ☐ Check spill kit MONTHLY and promptly restock after use.