Care should be taken to prevent wash water from pressure washing operations from entering the storm sewer system. Wash water has the potential to contain illicit and harmful substances that are damaging to the environment. The University's MS4 Permit only allows clean water discharges into the stormwater system and requires that the University implements Best Management Practices to prevent the discharge of pollutants from campus.

DO

- ✓ Sweep/blow away debris before pressure washing.
- ✓ Dry clean oil spots with absorbent and appropriately dispose of absorbent.
- ✓ Set up containment tools (e.g., berms, tarps, drain covers, plugs, pumps) to block and divert wash water from entering the storm drains where applicable.
- ✓ Discharge wastewater containing soap, acid, or other chemicals to the sanitary sewer only after receiving approval from EQM or collect it in a drum or tank for offsite disposal at an authorized wastewater facility.
- ✓ Filter solids from soap-free/acid-free wash water and then discharge wash water to a landscaped or pervious area.
- ✓ Designate roofs over concession stands, grease-laden zones, and loading docks as sensitive areas, and implement extra containment and care to protect storm drain inlets from common pollutants such as trash, oils, antifreeze, paint, and cleaning fluids.
- ✓ Install containment BMPs at trench drains in exterior loading docks, which are connected to the storm sewer system, to prevent any wash water from entering.
- ✓ Pressure wash interior loading docks with trench drains connected to the sanitary sewer system as needed, using hot water, pH-neutral, or non-emulsifying cleaners without additional measures under normal conditions.
- ✓ Clean up the site after washing. No debris, equipment, runoff, or residue is to be left on site after service completion.



Required Training: Prior to beginning work

Relevant UK Departments:

- Environmental Quality Management
- Facilities Management
- Grounds
- Capital Projects Management
- Facilities Construction Management
- Athletics
- Utilities and Energy Management

DON'T

- ✗ Don't pressure wash surfaces without first sweeping or removing loose debris.
- ✗ Don't freely pre-wash surfaces in preparation for pressure washing.
- ✗ Don't wash oil-stained areas without first dry-cleaning them using absorbent materials.
- ✗ Don't assume that trench drains or grates are connected to the sanitary sewer system, verify first.
- ✗ Don't pressure wash interior areas connected to the sanitary sewer during known system maintenance or outages.
- ✗ Don't assume that biodegradable or eco-friendly soaps are safe for storm drain discharge. They still require collection and proper disposal.
- ✗ Don't allow wash water containing acid or any other abrasive substances commonly used on masonry units to freely flow into storm drains.
- ✗ Don't pressure wash construction sediments down the storm drains as a method of cleaning. Sediments must be cleaned up using only dry methods.
- ✗ Don't release wash water, especially if it contains soap, acid, chemicals, grease, or oil into the storm sewers.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Inspect pressure washing equipment regularly for leaks, especially hoses, connectors, and containment pumps.
- Train personnel in proper dry cleanup methods and wash water management.
- Use signs and barriers to restrict public access during pressure washing operations in busy areas.
- Immediately report and document any accidental release to EQM.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Ensure storm drains are protected, and wash water is contained and collected as needed.
- ☐ Ensure site is adequately cleaned up/cleared after operations.