

## *Austin guide to...*

# **PRESSURE WASHING**

Pressure washing is a useful, often necessary, cleaning practice for removing grime, dirt, oil and grease off of concrete or other solid surfaces. However, if the resulting water is polluted, it must be disposed of properly to avoid harming our waterways and aquatic life. Solid objects that are washed to the storm drain such as trash and debris, can also clog drains and cause flooding. Remember, you are responsible for polluting discharges you create. To avoid costly fines:

### *Pre-Clean Areas -- Sweep, Bag and Toss in the Garbage Can/Dumpster:*

- **Trash, dirt, and debris**
- **Puddles, leaks, spills and heavy oil stains/slick-spots that have been treated with kitty litter or other dry, absorbent materials**
- **Leaves and grass clippings (dispose with brush collection)**

### *Choose Least-Toxic Cleaning Products*

- **Use cold water when possible and minimize the amount used**
- **Try to effectively clean dumpster with water only**
- **If necessary, use biodegradable cleaning agents for easier and less expensive disposal**
- **Avoid using toxic cleaning agents such as those containing chlorine, ammonia and phosphoric acid**
- **Use petroleum-consuming microbial cleaning products only on stains and slick spots -- use a minimal amount of water to prevent runoff**

### *Proper Runoff Prevention Options*

- Use wash mats with raised or curbed edges to contain water
- Place barrier or boom systems down-gradient of the area being washed
- Seal or plug the storm drains and inlets

### *Proper Collection*

- Use pumps or vacuums to collect wastewater
- Place wastewater in a tank or drums for treatment or disposal

### *Proper Disposal*

- If water is pollutant-free, wash or divert water to a vegetated area
- Storm drain inlet filters may be acceptable if proven effective and no soaps or detergents are used
- Contain and collect wash water containing cleaning agents and dispose of in the sanitary sewer system – never to a storm drain, oil/grit separator or waterway
- If on-site sanitary sewer disposal is not possible, store and transport to a permitted facility authorized by the Austin water Utility
- Check your local landfill – some might accept hauled liquid waste

#### **For more information, contact:**

##### Regulatory Requirements:

City of Austin, Watershed Protection  
(512) 974-2550

BFI Landfill (512) 272-4327

Waste Management Landfill (512) 272-4329

##### Sanitary Sewer System Discharges:

Austin Water Utility (512) 972-1060