A-14: Interior Washing Operations (Including Mobile Contractors)

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary.

For information on washing the exterior of buildings and surfaces, refer to BMP activity sheets A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Surfaces

For information on the use of pressure washers, steam cleaners or similar activities, refer to BMP activity sheet A-58: Pressure Washing, Steam Cleaning, and Similar Activities.

Required BMPs

- All wash and rinse water (including floor mop water) must be discharged to the sanitary sewer or septic system. It may not be discharged outdoors or into the stormwater drainage system.
- Do not dispose of wash or rinse waster containing floor stripping or disinfectant chemicals into the septic system as they can seriously inhibit wastewater treatment and cause the system to fail. The wash or rinse water should be collected and hauled offsite for proper disposal (e.g., taken to a wastewater treatment facility).
- The use of “environmentally friendly”, "nontoxic" or “biodegradable” soaps and detergents does NOT make it acceptable to discharge to any stormwater drain system or surface waters. All soaps are harmful to aquatic organisms.
- Do not dispose of sludge (thick, wet, viscous mixture; e.g., accumulated food debris cleaned from surface of equipment) outdoors or into the stormwater drainage system.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: nutrients, oil and grease, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Surfaces
    - A-58: Pressure Washing, Steam Cleaning, and Similar Activities
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Disposal
- Contact the local sewer authority and the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Industrial Waste Section at 206-477-5371 for more information on disposal to the sanitary sewer system.

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.