

Power Washing Guidelines

Did you know?

Cleaning chemicals and wash water are prohibited from entering the storm sewer system and are considered an illicit discharge.

Any release that enters waterways or the stormwater system is a violation of Town Code Section 5-32 and is subject to enforcement and fines.



Proper Procedures:

- **Use dry cleanup methods** - mops, brooms, rags or wire brushes to clean pavement, buildings and equipment as much as possible before pressure washing. The remaining **sediments should be swept** or vacuumed up before applying water.
- Prior to washing, **protect all storm drains** and create a containment area with berms, rubber mats and tarps or take advantage of low ground to keep wash water contained. Make sure this practice does not flood the area or affect vehicle or pedestrian traffic. Pump or vacuum up all wash water in the contained area and dispose of properly.
- **Never dispose of wash water into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches or streams.**
- With the property owner's permission, **dispose of wash water onto landscaped areas** that will not run off to a storm drain. Otherwise, drain it to the **sanitary sewer** through an interior building drain, sink or private sewer clean-out. Discharges to sewers should not contain hazardous materials, grease, grit or any material that could clog piping. **Contact OWASA**, at (919) 537-4343, in advance for direction.
- Use **phosphate-free detergents**.
- **Minimize water use** by using high-pressure, low volume nozzles.
- **Do not wash outdoors on days when rain is probable.**

Visit

<https://townofcarrboro.org/2538/Power-Washing> for more information.



*We all Live
Downstream*



TOWN OF CARRBORO
PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT
STORMWATER DIVISION

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact us at 919-918-7425

Pworks@townofcarrboro.org

Stormwater@townofcarrboro.org