



CITY OF ARVADA

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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NEW State Regulations That Will Effect Your Properties in Arvada, Colorado

We wanted to let you know about new State Regulations controlling discharges from power washing.

Power or pressure washing uses mechanical equipment to create a high pressure stream of water, typically ejected from a hand-held wand or nozzle. This jet of water is used for cleaning a wide variety of surfaces and objects. Depending on the application, pressure washing may be conducted with or without heated water or added cleaners.

A **discharge** is the water that flows away from a power washing job. Depending on what is being washed, dirt, grease, paint, and other materials could also be found in the discharge. In the past, this dirty water typically found its way to the nearest storm drain and disappeared.



Storm drains lead to creeks and waterways without treatment, so anything going into the drain comes out in the waterway. The State of Colorado (CDPHE) and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that wastewater from power washing pollute waterways. The State has the authority to issue an annual permit for power washing discharges if 1) the proper treatment has occurred and 2) sampling and laboratory analysis has shown that the discharge is not contaminated. Please review the State Fact Sheet concerning power washing provided on the back of this notice.

Prohibited Disposal Methods

Discharges from power or pressure washing can no longer go into storm drains...unless the **State of Colorado has issued a permit for the discharge.**

Acceptable Disposal Methods without a State Permit

Even if chemicals are used, you are allowed to discharge onto landscaping, if the discharge does not harm vegetation. If discharge into landscape is not an option, then the wastewater must be collected and dumped into the sanitary sewer, via a janitor's sink or toilet, as long as permission is granted by Metro Wastewater Reclamation District.

Call **Metro Wastewater Reclamation District** at 303-286-3000;

If you plan on discharging into a sink or toilet to obtain permission for the discharge

Call the **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment** at 303-692-3500;

If you are interested in a permit for discharging power washing waste.

Call the **City of Arvada** at 720-898-7800, if you have questions, or go to www.arvada.org.



Discharge of Process Wastewater from Power Washing Operations

Water generated by power washing operations is defined as a “process wastewater” and requires coverage under a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) discharge permit in order to be discharged to waters of the State of Colorado. The Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) has reviewed the legal discharge options available under the Water Quality Control Act, and compiled the following list of approved options for the Mobile Power Washing Industry.

A. Process Water Discharge Under a CDPS Permit

If a facility holds a CDPS direct discharge permit, and a power washer provides service to that facility owner, the facility owner may provide treatment and discharge the process wastewater from the power washing operation in compliance with the facilities CDPS direct discharge permit. As discussed in Section B, below, a CDPS *stormwater* discharge permit does not authorize discharge of process wastewater and therefore cannot be utilized for this option.

B. Process Water Discharge to a Wastewater Treatment Plant

Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) require coverage under CDPS discharge permits for their discharges and, therefore may accept process wastewater in compliance with their permit and the applicable Pretreatment Regulations, and discharge the wastewater in compliance with their permit. The following options apply for discharges to a WWTP. All options below require permission from the WWTP and/or coverage under a pretreatment permit.

- 1) With the permission of the facility owner and the WWTP, the wastewater can be discharged into the sanitary sewer at the location the work is being done.
- 2) Upon approval from the local WWTP, the wastewater can be hauled to and discharged at the WWTP.
- 3) All other pretreatment options would require a pretreatment permit.
- 4) Any mobile power washer that generates wastewater and brings it back to their facility can discharge the wastewater into the sanitary sewer with the permission of their local WWTP.

C. Process Water Discharge to Landscaping

Discharge of process water onto landscaping with vegetative cover will be allowed provided the chemicals used are not harmful to the vegetation, the material being removed is not harmful to vegetation, there is no ponding, and there is no runoff from the site into a Storm Water Conveyance or Waters of the State.

D. Illegal Discharges of Process Wastewater

The following methods of disposing of process waste water from power washing operations are not authorized by the Colorado Water Quality Control Act and would constitute violations:

- 1) Discharge to state waters of any wash water from mobile power washers, either directly or via a storm sewer, that is not covered by a CDPS discharge permit and discharged in compliance with that permit in accordance with an option in Section A or B above, is a violation of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act.
- 2) Discharge to state waters of any wash water from mobile power washers, either directly or via a storm sewer, is not authorized under any stormwater permit, either industrial or municipal, and is a violation of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act.