



KEEPING STORMWATER CLEAN IS IMPORTANT.

Help us protect it.

It is a violation of Dallas City Code and the Federal Clean Water Act for businesses to allow water mixed with soap, detergents, and any other cleaning chemicals to escape into the street or storm drains. Please do not discharge wastewater from cleaning or washing pavement, including parking lots, driveways, structures, streets, and sidewalks directly into the storm drain or street unless:

1. The water is uncontaminated by soaps, detergents, degreasers, or any other chemical cleaning substance, and,
2. The resulting chemical-free wastewater is relatively clean; clean-enough that it will not impact the water quality of the stream, creek, or other water body that will receive it, and
3. The washing and subsequent wastewater discharge occurs in a manner that does not cause erosion or create muddy runoff.

Take these actions to stay in compliance with the law and preserve the City's creeks and streams:

1. Look at the lay of the pavement you wish to clean. Be aware of which way the water will flow. Those pathways are where the dirty discharge from your facility will occur. Things as simple as a 2x4 weighted down with a sand bag or filled 5-gallon bucket can create a barrier and allow you to divert your dirty water to landscaping or a grassy area. Several sandbags laid tightly side to side is another option for creating a dam. If there is vehicular or human traffic, be sure to make your barriers with cones.
2. If you wash using cleaning chemicals, your pavement or facility, block the storm drains with a barrier. You must collect all the contaminated water by wet vacuum or other method.
3. If you wash with water only, block the storm drains and divert the water to your landscaping or a grassy area. Stay aware of driveways so that you can avoid a discharge into the street.
4. Alternatively, if you wash with water only, many auto supplies stores stock absorbent socks that can filter out oil and other common contaminants from pavement washing while allowing water to pass through. Use the socks (secured on both sides by sandbags and brightly marked to be easily seen) to block any pathways to the street or storm drains. When you begin washing, go slow enough to allow the sock to filter the contaminated water without overtopping the filter sock.

There are other inexpensive methods to filter wash water prior to discharge to the storm drain or street.

Please contact the City of Dallas Stormwater Management at 214-948-4022 or stormwater@dallascityhall.com for more information