

## Best Management Practices

When conducting washing activities, the following Best Management Practices should be used:

- When washing, minimize the amount of water used.
- Do not use cleaning products if water will do the job, or minimize the amount of cleaning products used.
- Be aware of the weather forecast to allow adequate time for collection of wash water and cleanup of the area prior to rain.
- Maintain and regularly inspect containment measures to prevent bypasses of wash water out of the containment area.

## Methods and Resources

There are several methods and products that can be used to contain and collect wash water, including sand bags, berms, mat systems, and vacuums/pumps. It is the responsibility of the generator to determine the proper containment and collection method. Information and resources can be found on the Internet.

## Links:

- Power Washers of North America  
[www.thepwna.org](http://www.thepwna.org)

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City of Springfield  
Storm Water Services Division

Contact: Carrie Lamb  
Phone: (417) 864-1996  
Email: [clamb@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:clamb@springfieldmo.gov)  
Fax: (417) 864-1907  
PO Box 8368  
840 Boonville Ave  
Springfield, MO 65801-8368

For more information about the City of Springfield's Storm Water Management Program, visit [www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater).

## Wash Water Regulations



- Mobile Wash Businesses
- Power Washing
- Fleet Washing
- Other Commercial Cleaning Activities



**Compliance is Good Business**

## What's the Issue?

When water runs off a property, it flows into the City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) which is composed of streets storm drains, ditches, waterways and other facilities, both public and private, by which storm water is conveyed. The MS4 is separate from the City's sanitary sewer system which goes to one of the City's two wastewater treatment plants. Discharges to the MS4 do not get treated; they flow directly into area creeks, rivers, and lakes.

The City is required to have a permit from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to discharge storm water runoff into area waterways. The permit requires that the City implement and enforce an ordinance to prohibit the discharge of pollutants to the MS4. This ordinance is City Code Chapter 96 Article II.



Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

## Disposal Prohibitions and Options

The discharge of wash water into the MS4 or waters of the city or waters of the state from commercial cleaning activities is prohibited by City Code Sec. 96-27. This includes wash water of any kind regardless of the content of the water. Examples include but are not limited to water from washing vehicles, equipment, and structures. The exception is wash water from street, parking lot and sidewalk cleaning operations after all visible debris and sediments have been removed prior to washing and that do not cause or contribute contaminants to the waters of the state or the city or the MS4. Caution should be used when discharging wash water under this exception. To ensure compliance with this exception, absorbent socks or other best management practices may be needed.

Wash water can be left to evaporate on paved surfaces or disposed of to land onsite as long as it does not create a nuisance, contaminate the soil with hazardous waste, or compromise the functionality of onsite storm water drainage facilities. This option is also prohibited if it can reasonably be expected to result in the discharge of polluting substances, as defined in Sec. 96-27, to waters of the state or the city or the MS4 in subsequent storm water runoff from the site.

Collected wash water can be disposed of to the sanitary sewer in compliance with the City's Wastewater Regulations, or hauled to the wastewater treatment plant by a permitted waste hauler.



## Sanitary Sewer Disposal

Disposal to a sanitary sewer may be done on-site with the property owner's permission or at the service provider's facility. Disposal should be done through a private sewer connection only, such as a sink, toilet, floor drain or lateral cleanout. If washing is being done to remove paint or other chemicals, prior approval for disposal to a sanitary sewer must be obtained from the City's Sanitary Services Division at (417) 864-1923. Wash water may also be hauled to the wastewater treatment plant by a permitted wastewater hauler if prior approval has been obtained.

Disposal of any kind to a sanitary sewer manhole is strictly prohibited unless prior approval has been obtained. Permission to discharge into a sanitary sewer manhole would be rarely approved by the City and then only under extremely unusual circumstances. Please note that storm water, i.e. falling precipitation, groundwater, surface water, roof drains, etc. and outside drains connected to the sanitary sewer are strictly prohibited.