

A-15 Pressure Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Objects

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs:

- If the area is paved and soaps, detergents or any other chemical (including pesticides) are used, use a sump pump, wet vacuum or similar device that enables collection of wash water and associated solids so they can be disposed of properly. The wash water must not go to the storm drain system.
- If the area is paved but soaps and detergents are not being used, the wash water runoff does not have to be collected but it does have to be filtered to trap solid materials.
- The wash water does not need to be collected if the area is landscaped and the water can soak into the ground without running into the storm drain system.
- If the surface being pressure washed is painted with lead or other heavy metal-bearing paint (such as chromium or cadmium), you must use a commercial pressure washing service that will collect, test, and properly dispose of the wastewater.
- Block or disconnect all rooftop downspouts when washing roofs. The wash/waste water must be directed to pervious areas such as landscaping or gravel for infiltration, collected and disposed of to the sanitary sewer, or taken off site for appropriate disposal.

Additional Information:

- Disposal Information sheet
- Catch basin insert Information sheet

Note: Pressure washing of boats in boat yards, marinas, and dry dock areas is covered by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology, so the BMPs listed above may not apply to pressure washing in these locations.

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