The City of Grand Junction’s storm drain system conveys urban and stormwater runoff directly to the drainage channels in Grand Junction, and ultimately to the Colorado River. The City’s storm drain system is not intended to collect contaminated wastewater at any time. **Discharging contaminated wastewater to the storm drainage system is a violation of Grand Junction Municipal Code 13.28.020.**

Wash water originating from mobile pressure washing activity is classified as industrial wastewater and must never be allowed to enter City storm drains. This wastewater often carries with it pollutants such as suspended solids, oil and grease, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and other organic matter. The person who generates and releases such discharge may be held responsible for failing to observe stormwater regulations.

Additionally, the City may also hold the facility owner responsible for failing to protect their connection to the storm drain system. Administrative enforcement may be imposed if such illicit discharges are discovered. Thus, facility owners should ensure contracting only with reputable mobile washers who demonstrate full knowledge of their responsibilities and compliance with the law.
Best Management Practices (BMPs) are intended to aid the mobile washer in the prevention of industrial wastewater entering the storm drain system. Prior to pressure washing operations, the following BMPs should be completed. These practices are also intended to ensure that the resulting mobile washing wastewater meets the standards for discharging to land, for evaporation or to the sanitary sewer.

- Walk the area to be cleaned prior to the start of the job and identify all storm drains, yard drains, ditches, drainage channels, and sumps where waste wash water could be released into the storm drain system.
- Block or seal off all identified drains using sand bags, plugs, rubber mats, containment pads, temporary berms, or use a portable collapsible wastewater containment sump to contain wash wastewater.
- Sweep all surfaces before washing to minimize the amount of “soil” and grit contained in the resulting mobile wash wastewater.
- Use absorbents such as booms or pads, cat litter or sand to soak up spilled liquids. Absorbents used to clean up spilled fluids may require disposal as hazardous waste.
- Collect all trash, absorbent material and debris from the area and dispose of in a proper manner.

**Discharge to Land or Evaporation Methods**

To comply with the stormwater regulations when discharging pressure washing wastewater to the storm drainage system, certain procedures must be strictly followed. The City has created a pressure washing guideline listing the conditions that must be met to ensure mobile car washing wastewater discharges meet requirements of the stormwater regulations.

To summarize the guidelines, if no detergents or chemicals are used, wastewater from mobile car washing operations may be discharged using one of two methods. It may either be discharged to land or contained on an impervious surface and allowed to evaporate.

1. When using the discharge to land method, wastewater flows are directed to a dirt or landscaped area that is capable of absorbing the wastewater.
2. When using the evaporation method, wastewater flows are directed to and contained on an asphalt or concrete surface. The pool of wastewater may then be allowed to evaporate.

For more information contact:
Chris Spears Street Cleaning Supervisor  
(970) 244-1584  
chriss@gcity.org
or
Tom McGee Stormwater Inspector  
(970) 270-5887

**Alternate Discharge Methods**

If detergents or chemicals are used when pressure washing, the wastewater must be discharged to a waste disposal facility or a wastewater treatment plant. Discharging wastewater on site is not allowed. The following are alternative options for disposing of pressure washing wastewater when unable to comply with the criteria of the methods listed above:

- Collect and transport wastewater for disposal at a disposal facility.
- Wastewater may be discharged to the storm drainage system only with a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) Individual Discharge Permit.
- Contact the local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to determine whether discharge of the pressure washing wastewater to the sanitary sewer system is allowed. If discharge to the sanitary sewer is approved by the WWTP, collect the wastewater and dispose of it into the sanitary sewer in accordance with the requirements of the WWTP.

When using either of these methods, there are specific conditions that must be met. Refer to the Pressure Washing Guidelines for more information.

**Dumping of Pressure Washing Wastewater at Car Washes or Other Businesses Is Not Allowed.**