

THE PROBLEM & THE SOLUTION

Many pressure washing activities lack proper controls, resulting in the discharge of chemicals, pollutants and debris into storm drains which ultimately contaminates areas such as the Cave Creek Wash.

However, when performed correctly, pressure washing can contribute to the solution of stormwater pollution by cleaning surfaces and properly disposing of waste, preventing pollutants from entering waterways when it rains.



How to Protect Our Storm Drains...



LEARN MORE

about best practices when it comes to water at

carefree.org/stormwater



PRESSURE WASHING & SURFACE CLEANING

Keep your surfaces clean and our water free of pollutants!

WHAT TO DO...

1 Plan Ahead:

- Determine your wash water containment and disposal methods.
- Identify a specific location for wastewater disposal and obtain onsite access permission.

2 Prepare Site:

- Block storm drains with impervious barriers like gravel bags, berms, or seal them with plugs or rubber mats.

3 Surface Preclean:

- Use dry methods and absorbents on small spots before washing.
- Sweep up trash, debris, and dirt before wet washing.
- Properly dispose of precleaning waste in the trash to simplify the wastewater disposal process.

4 Pressure Wash Responsibly:

- Minimize water usage during cleaning (use low volume nozzles).
- Avoid using cleaning products containing hazardous substances.

5 Collect Wash Water:

- Use approved wastewater containment methods.
- Place an absorbent pad on collected wastewater to reduce or remove any floating oil.
- Collect all wash water, especially with high pollutant concentrations.

6 Dispose of Wash Water:

- Determine the best wash water disposal method for you.



WASH WATER CONTAINMENT

There are many ways you can prevent the wastewater produced by pressure washing from entering our storm drains.

Berms:

- Create a protective barrier around storm drain inlets to allow wastewater pooling before collection.
- May be less effective on slopes or with large wash water volumes.

Storm Drain Covers and Mats:

- Place magnetic vinyl mats, polyurethane mats, or PVC drain covers on storm drain grates.
- Use a vacuum device to divert wash water into the sanitary sewer system.

Vacuum Devices:

- Wet/dry vacuums, sump pumps, and vacuum pumps efficiently collect wastewater.
- Some devices can divert water to the sanitary sewer or holding tanks.

3 WAYS TO DISPOSE OF WASH WATER

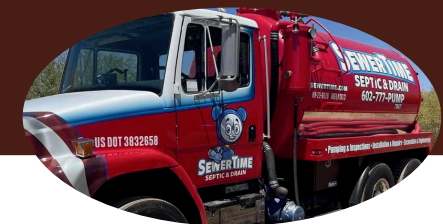
Use a Pretreatment Device

Discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer through a fats, oils, and grease interceptor.



Liquid Waste Hauling Company

Permitted third-party companies haul wash water to treatment sites before discharging to the sewer.



Dispose as Hazardous Waste

Transport certain wastewaters with a licensed hazardous waste hauler with an EPA ID number.

