



MAINTENANCE - OUTDOOR WASHING

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES



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PURPOSE

DEN participates in routine cleaning of outdoor pavement, structures, buildings, and facilities to ensure efficient operation and cleanliness and public safety. This document establishes guidelines for these activities to prevent contamination and support DEN's compliance with regulatory bodies and describes allowable discharges as well to the different sewer systems located at DEN. Each operator, tenant, and/or vendor conducting washing activities at DEN is responsible for understanding the applicable regulations and managing their activities accordingly. This Environmental Guideline is meant as guidance only and does not supersede any regulations.

ACTIVITY DEFINITION

Outdoor washing includes any time that water, chemicals, or dry washing techniques are utilized outside of a building on DEN property. This document includes guidance on cleaning structures or vehicles containing chemicals or petroleum residue. These activities must prevent unauthorized discharges to the storm sewer.

EXPECTATIONS

Best Practices:

- Permitted options for disposal or discharge of washing effluent:
 - Collect the washing effluent and discharge it to the sanitary sewer system through a pretreatment device. This requires approval from DEN ES and review of Safety Data Sheet (SDS) if chemicals are used and may require additional approvals from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) and/or Metro Wastewater Reclamation District.
 - Collect and dispose of the washing effluent to an appropriately permitted facility. A CDPS permit is not required, however, approval from the permitted facility is required.
 - Conduct the work in an area that will allow for complete evaporation of the wash water (zero discharge). A CDPS permit is not required, however prior approval from DEN ES is required.
 - Utilize drain covers or similar BMPs to protect and prevent discharges to the storm and sanitary sewer systems. Allow for complete evaporation of the effluent or collect and dispose of the washing effluent to the sanitary system or an appropriately permitted facility (see bullets above).
- In certain cases, outdoor washing conducted on the airfield may be eligible for alternative discharging. Obtain approval from DEN Environmental Services for any airside discharge to the sanitary sewer system or deicing waste collection (DIW) system.
- Discharging to land is only possible when:
 - No chemicals, detergents, or cleaning agents are used



- The discharge is conducted in a manner that is not harmful to the vegetation and does not cause erosion,
- The discharge does not contain a visible sheen,
- The discharge does not contain visible solids,
- The material being removed is not harmful to vegetation,
- There is no ponding,
- The wash water effluent completely infiltrates,
- There is no runoff from the site into a storm water conveyance or Waters of the State,
- The discharge does not occur during a storm event
- If a spill occurs, call DEN Communications Center immediately at 303-342-4200.

Shall Not:

- Discharges to the storm sewer without a permit are prohibited by State regulation.
- Use of chemicals, detergents, or cleaning agents in washing activities that discharge to land is prohibited.
- Transporting waste liquids and solids contained in equipment and originating off site onto DEN property is prohibited (e.g., fluids in scrubbers).
- Washing spills of any kind into the stormwater collection system is prohibited.
- Washing spills of any kind into the DIW or its conveyances is prohibited without prior approval by DEN ES.
- Washing spills of any kind into the sanitary sewer collection system is prohibited without prior approval by DEN ES.
- Disposal of solid waste materials into any drain is prohibited.
- Discharge/disposal of liquid waste into any sewer system is prohibited without a permit.
- The discharge of washing effluent to land during a storm event (snow, precipitation, etc.) is prohibited.
- The cleaning/washing of vehicle surfaces used for containing or transferring materials is prohibited including beds, concrete mixers, hoppers, and chutes.

REFERENCES

Contacts

- DEN Communications Center (for spill reporting): 303-342-4200
- DEN Environmental Services (Main Line): 303-342-2730; DENEnvironmental@flydenver.com

Additional Resources

- DEN Stormwater Management Plan
- CDPHE Power Washing Guidance
- CDPHE Low Risk Discharge Guidance
- CDPHE WQCD permit fact sheets, rationales, and general permits