



Utilities

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August 8, 2013

«Business_Name»
«Address»
«City»,«State» «Zip»

Dear Manager,

This letter is being sent to all power washing companies in Fort Collins and those that may do business within our city. We would like to remind you that disposing of waste into the City of Fort Collins stormwater system is prohibited by Section 26-498 of the Fort Collins Municipal Code (see attached).

Storm drains and gutters carry rain and snow melt directly to local ponds, wetlands, creeks and the Cache la Poudre River. Unlike wastewater in the sanitary sewer system, stormwater is not treated to remove pollutants before it enters our waterways. You can help protect our aquatic plants and animals by keeping wash water out of storm drains.

Please follow these steps for proper disposal of power washing waste:

- Block storm drains with a water-tight barrier to ensure that dirty water does not enter the storm drain
- Collect wash water with a shop vac and discharge it into the sanitary sewer through an indoor drain. The wash water must meet the following conditions:
 - pH between 5 and 11
 - no visible oil or grease
 - no hazardous substances
- Collect wash water and haul it to the Drake Wastewater Reclamation Facility (with prior approval by calling 221-6900)
- See attached State guidance document for discharge of surface cosmetic power washing waste to landscaping

If you have any questions, please contact me at 416-2325 or sstrong@fcgov.com .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Strong".

Susan Strong, CSM
Environmental Regulatory Specialist



**SECTIONS OF THE FORT COLLINS MUNICIPAL CODE
APPLICABLE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION**

Sec. 26-498. Water quality control.

(a) The City storm drainage facilities are intended to be used only for the purpose of collecting water deposited as a result of meteorological precipitation. No person shall make or maintain at any time a connection to a storm drainage facility to convey flows other than storm drainage flows and uncontaminated groundwater flows. Except where suitable treatment has been provided, no person shall discharge any pollutant or contaminated water into or upon any:

- (1) Public street, highway or other right-of-way;
- (2) Watercourse (whether natural or manmade);
- (3) Storm drainage facility; or
- (4) Other public or private property within the City or in an area under the jurisdiction of the City if there is a significant potential for migration of such pollutant or contaminated water from such property to a storm drainage facility.

(b) No person shall maintain or permit property conditions that create a significant potential for migration of pollutants or contaminated water to the City's storm drainage facilities.

(c) No person shall fail to maintain stormwater quality improvements required in connection with such person's development, occupation or use of any property in the City.

(d) The Utilities Executive Director is authorized to impose more stringent effluent limitations than required by the CDPS and to add pollutant parameters to those required by the CDPS in regulating flows into or upon the locations or facilities described in Subsection (a) above as the Utilities Executive Director determines to be necessary to protect public storm drainage facilities, public streets, highways, other rights-of-way or any watercourse. The Utilities Executive Director is also authorized to require sampling for such pollutant parameters according to such schedule as the Utilities Executive Director determines to be appropriate to ascertain water quality. Any such requirements added by the Utilities Executive Director shall be reported together with those required by the CDPS to both the Utilities Executive Director and the CDPS. The Utilities Executive Director is authorized to refuse or restrict any discharge to public storm drainage facilities if, in the best professional judgment of the Utilities Executive Director, such refusal or restriction is necessary to prevent impairment of the health, safety or welfare of the citizens or the environment or to prevent injury to any public storm drainage facility.

(e) Where CDPS permits are required, the Utilities Executive Director is authorized to impose additional requirements as may be applicable pursuant to the City's "Storm Drainage Design Criteria and Construction Standards" or pursuant to best management practices.

(f) No person shall use any water well within the City as a cesspool or as a place to deposit wastewater or wastes of any kind.

(g) No person shall cause any obstruction in or interfere with the operation of any public storm drainage facility or private storm drainage facility.

Sec. 26-491. Definitions

Pollutant shall mean dredged spoil, dirt, slurry, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, sewage sludge, garbage, trash, chemical waste, biological nutrient, biological material, disease causing agents, radioactive material, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, automotive fluids, paint, cooking grease, process waste water, swimming pool discharges, discharges from cleaning of heat transfer equipment or any **industrial, commercial, construction,** household, municipal or agricultural **waste**.

Suitable treatment shall mean that treatment process authorized by and undertaken pursuant to an appropriate permit(s) to discharge treated water under the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Colorado Discharge Permit System ("CDPS") or pursuant to written guidance regarding low-risk categories of discharges issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, except that if the Executive Director has imposed more stringent requirements as authorized in Subsection 26-498(d), suitable treatment means compliance with those more stringent requirements.