

Discharge of Process Wastewater from Power Washing Operations

Water generated by power washing operations is defined as a “process wastewater” and requires coverage under a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) discharge permit in order to be discharged to waters of the State of Colorado. The Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) has reviewed the legal discharge options available under the Water Quality Control Act, and compiled the following list of approved options for the Mobile Power Washing Industry.

A. Process Water Discharge Under a CDPS Permit

If a facility holds a CDPS direct discharge permit, and a power washer provides service to that facility owner, the facility owner may provide treatment and discharge the process wastewater from the power washing operation in compliance with the facilities CDPS direct discharge permit. As discussed in Section B, below, a CDPS *stormwater* discharge permit does not authorize discharge of process wastewater and therefore cannot be utilized for this option.

B. Process Water Discharge to a Wastewater Treatment Plant

Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) require coverage under CDPS discharge permits for their discharges and, therefore may accept process wastewater in compliance with their permit and the applicable Pretreatment Regulations, and discharge the wastewater in compliance with their permit. The following options apply for discharges to a WWTP. All options below require permission from the WWTP and/or coverage under a pretreatment permit.

- 1) With the permission of the facility owner and the WWTP, the wastewater can be discharged into the sanitary sewer at the location the work is being done.
- 2) Upon approval from the local WWTP, the wastewater can be hauled to and discharged at the WWTP.
- 3) All other pretreatment options would require a pretreatment permit.
- 4) Any mobile power washer that generates wastewater and brings it back to their facility can discharge the wastewater into the sanitary sewer with the permission of their local WWTP.

C. Process Water Discharge to Landscaping

Discharge of process water onto landscaping with vegetative cover will be allowed provided the chemicals used are not harmful to the vegetation, the material being removed is not harmful to vegetation, there is no ponding, and there is no runoff from the site into a Storm Water Conveyance or Waters of the State.

D. Illegal Discharges of Process Wastewater

The following methods of disposing of process waste water from power washing operations are not authorized by the Colorado Water Quality Control Act and would constitute violations:

- 1) Discharge to state waters of any wash water from mobile power washers, either directly or via a storm sewer, that is not covered by a CDPS discharge permit and discharged in compliance with that permit in accordance with an option in Section A or B above, is a violation of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act.
- 2) Discharge to state waters of any wash water from mobile power washers, either directly or via a storm sewer, is not authorized under any stormwater permit, either industrial or municipal, and is a violation of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act.