



# PRESSURE WASHING OPERATIONS – BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE



## MARINE CORPS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION – MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO

### QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

#### Definition and Purpose

This document provides the stormwater program guidance for pressure washing. The purpose of these procedures is to prevent unnecessary and unlawful discharges of harmful pollutants into our waterways. All pressure washing must comply with the requirements specified in Marine Corps National Capital Region – Marine Corps Base Quantico’s (MCNCR-MCBQ) Industrial Stormwater Permit, number VA0002151 and Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems permit, number VAR040069.



The procedures and guidelines discussed in this BMP must be implemented to ensure that byproducts (e.g., spent detergents, pollutants) of pressure washing do not come into contact with stormwater or surface water. If these proper procedures are not followed, harmful pollutants can migrate by means of stormwater run-off into our natural waterways.

Exterior cleaning/pressure washing is necessary to keep buildings and equipment in good condition and to increase curb appeal.

#### Approach

MCNCR-MCBQ’s permit authorizes certain new and existing discharges of stormwater to receiving waters in accordance with permit effluent limitations and includes the development and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

To ensure BMPs are fully implemented, visual inspections and sampling of stormwater outfalls is performed by the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Branch (NREA) periodically and during the course of the SWPPP quarterly and annual inspections; all of which are permit driven inspections.

#### Existing and New Facilities:

When compliance investigations or routine stormwater audits indicate impacts to water resources, NREA can evaluate and provide guidance when taking action to address any problems identified. Infrastructure and equipment, in addition to BMP implementation, are evaluated during inspections. To minimize the potential for compliance issues and to reduce liability, the requirements in this document must be fully implemented when pressure washing.



#### Pressure Washing and Potential Pollutants

Pressure washing buildings, equipment, and pavement can dislodge harmful pollutants such as oils, grease, sealants, paint, debris, etc. These materials, in addition to any solvents or detergents being used, can flow untreated into storm drains if preventative measures are not taken. Allowing untreated wastewater to enter storm drains pollutes local waterways, drinking water sources and is a violation of local, state, and federal laws.

## Apply Best Management Practices (BMPs)

When performing ANY pressure washing activity, ALL of these BMP Guidelines MUST be followed:

- Pre-clean the area before pressure washing by collecting litter, sweeping, scraping, and using absorbents to remove oil and grease stains prior to pressure washing. This practice conserves water and reduces the chance for stormwater contamination.
- Wastewater from pressure washing **MUST** be directed away from storm drains to the greatest extent possible to prevent pollutants in wash water from entering storm drains. Directing wash water into grassy areas is preferred.
- Plug and/or place absorbent booms or storm drain mats around inlets to avoid discharging pollutants directly into storm drains.
- NREA must be consulted if any products, solvents, or other chemicals are to be used during pressure washing activities. The use of cleaners and detergents is strongly discouraged, as their use requires prior approval and collection and disposal requirements. If chemicals, solvents, or other hazardous materials are used, wash waters **MUST** be contained, prevented from entering the environment and disposed of properly.
- Clean up remaining residue or debris by sweeping. Otherwise, the next time it rains these materials will be discharged down the nearest storm drain.



## Wastewater/Chemical Contaminated Wash Water Collection:

Wastewater can be collected from containment using a wet vacuum, sump pump, or vacuum pump. Wastewater must be collected because any pollutants left on the pavement will eventually be carried into a nearby storm drain by rainwater.

Wastewater that contains soap, detergent, cleaning products, hazardous wastes, or large amounts of any other pollutant must be collected for disposal. Tanks can be used to temporarily store wastewater until it can be properly disposed of.



## Wastewater and Debris Disposal

- Collected debris from pre-cleaning activities can be disposed of as normal refuse. All used absorbents and other potentially hazardous wastes must be disposed of properly. Please contact NREA's Hazardous Waste Management team for proper procedures as well as refer to the Base Hazardous Waste Management Plan via Marine Corps Base Order 5090.7A. .
- Collected waste wash water must be disposed of using the sanitary sewer system. If this condition cannot be met, contact NREA for additional guidance.



For questions and/or additional information contact the NREA Water Program at 703-432-0539 or 703-432-0528