Evaporation

Evaporation may be used when the wash water is free of detergent or other cleaning agents and will not leave pollutant residues.

If surface cleaning wash water contains visible debris, residue, soap, hazardous waste, or any pollutant, residues will eventually end up in the storm drain system and our waterways.

Hazardous Waste

Depending on the condition of the surface being cleaned, the wash water generated could be classified as hazardous waste. Generating hazardous waste increases your operating costs and limits disposal options. Wash water contaminated with hazardous waste could harm septic systems and contaminate groundwater, so it must be collected, then disposed of at a hazardous waste facility. To determine if a waste is hazardous, contact the Los Angeles County Fire Department or visit www.fire.lacounty.gov/hhmd/hazardous-materials-program-2.

Examples of hazardous waste:

- Wash water from parking lots, storage areas, and gas stations may contain oil, gas, solvents, antifreeze, metals, and/or pesticides.
- Wash water generated from building exteriors with pre-1978 paint may contain lead.

WHY DO WE CARE?

Outdoor surface cleaning pertains to the cleaning of sidewalks, patios, plazas, dumpster areas, building exteriors, parking areas, and driveways. Surface cleaning generates waste (wash water and debris) that may contain grease and grime, dirt, lead paint chips, food, trash, heavy metals, solvent cleaners, and other toxic materials.

Wash water from surface cleaning must not flow to the storm drain system, which includes gutters, streets, storm drain catch basins, and other drainage channels.

Allowing wash water from surface cleaning or pressure washing to flow into the storm drain system or surface waters violates water quality laws.

By committing to eco-friendly surface cleaning, your business or contractor can promote its green practices and comply with the law. You can take pride in protecting the environment.

RESOURCES

City of Malibu
MalibuCity.org/Enviro

County of Los Angeles
CleanLA.com

Living Lightly in the Santa Monica Mountains
LivingLightlyGuide.org

SoCal Water Smart Rebates
SoCalWaterSmart.com

REACH US

One Call to City Hall
310-456-CITY (456-2489) EXT 311
Report non-life threatening emergencies.

Subscribe to Environmental Programs calendar and notifications at
www.MalibuCity.org/NotifyMe.

23825 Stuart Ranch Rd
Malibu, CA 90265

Facebook : @MalibuEnviro
Twitter: @MalibuEnviroDpt
Instagram: @KeepItCleanMalibu

CITY OF MALIBU
Environmental Sustainability Department

OUTDOOR SURFACE CLEANING

& pressure washing

Keep It Clean, *Malibu*

PLANNING

A little planning goes a long way, especially when you need to contain and capture wash water to prevent pollution. Protect the storm drains from runoff, debris, dirt and other pollutants. Locate high and low-spots and slopes, and determine the area where wash water can be pooled for collection.

- Pre-clean the surface with dry methods, such as using absorbents on small oil spots and sweeping up trash, debris, and dirt before wet washing. Waste from dry cleanup (absorbents and paint chips) may often be disposed of in the trash; check with your solid waste hauler.
- Determine what collection method you will use and how you will dispose of the wash water generated from each cleaning activity.
- Test to see whether pressure washing with hot water will do the job before adding soap. Disposal may be easier if soap is not used.
- Always obtain the property owner's permission before disposing of wash water at the job site (to septic system or landscaping).
- Minimize the amount of water used during washing activities with high pressure low volume equipment. Conserve water and reduce the volume of wash water that needs to be disposed afterward.
- Avoid using cleaning products that contain hazardous substances (hydrofluoric acid, muriatic acid, sodium hydroxide, bleach) that can turn wash water into a hazardous waste.
- Acidic, caustic, and detergent cleaners may damage paved or coated surfaces.
- Wash water with high pollutant concentrations (like those found in cleaning compounds) must be completely collected and may not be left to evaporate.

WASH WATER COLLECTION

By cleaning surfaces, collecting wastes (water and/or debris), and properly disposing of wash water, there is less chance of pollutants ending up in our waterways. Be sure to sweep up any remaining debris once wash water has been collected.

- Avoid mixing non-toxic wash water with water known to contain hazardous levels of pollutants.
- Place an oil-absorbent mat on top of the water to help reduce the amount of oil deposited on the surface of the collection area.
- Berms prevent wash water from entering a storm drain and allows wash water to pool around the inlet prior to collection and disposal.
- Containment pools are easy to assemble, provide an immediate work area, and can be used for washing equipment and vehicles.
- Wet/dry vacuums, sump pumps, and vacuum pumps collect wash water after pressure washing. Many vacuums are equipped with a hose that can run from the pump to the sanitary sewer, a treatment device, or a holding tank.
- Vacuum booms attach to the vacuum and rest flush on the ground to draw wash water through small holes on the bottom. A variety of vacuum booms are available for areas with steep slopes or rough terrain.
- An oil absorbent boom, oil/water separator, or hydrophobic mop decreases the concentration of oil and a filter can decrease the amount of solids in the water.
- Be creative and find a system that works for you and protects the environment.

Wash Water Disposal

Federal, State, and local laws prohibit dumping wash water, into any natural body of water or the storm drain system including streets, storm drains, ditches, and gutters.

All wash water discharged into the sanitary sewer or onsite wastewater treatment system (septic system) must meet the requirements of the local authority. Contact the City's Environmental Health Office regarding the rules. It is your responsibility to lawfully collect and dispose of this wash water.

ONLY RAIN belongs in the storm drain. The best defense is **SPILL PROTECTION.**

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems *aka* Septic Systems

Most of Malibu does not have a sanitary sewer and instead uses individual onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), also called septic systems. Wash water from cleaning activities may be disposed of in the septic system if it does not contain contaminants that would disrupt it. Find the Regional Water Quality Control Board's waste disposal requirements at **www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts.**

Sanitary Sewer

The Malibu Civic Center area will have a sanitary sewer once the Civic Center Wastewater Treatment Facility is completed. Disposal of surface cleaning wash water to the sanitary sewer must have approval and meet requirements of the City.

Landscape Infiltration

Direct surface cleaning wash water onto landscaped or dirt areas where it will absorb into the ground.

- Disposing of wash water to land must not create a nuisance condition, flow into the storm drain, reach a shallow aquifer, or contaminate soil.
- Always obtain the property owner's permission before disposing of any wash water to land.
- Wash water containing garbage, food wastes, visible trash, or hazardous contaminants (solvents, cleaners, oils, metals) may not be discharged to land.