





UNIVERSITY OF  
COLORADO  
Boulder  
Environmental Health and Safety

## Power Washing Guidelines

- I. Purpose and Responsibilities
- II. Risk Identification
- III. Personal Protective Equipment
- IV. Procedure of Operations
- V. Training and Recordkeeping

## Power Washing Guidelines

This procedure will serve as a guide to individuals who will be performing or assisting with power washing on campus. Wastewater from power washing must be collected and disposed of properly and is not allowed to enter the storm sewer system. Proper power-washing wastewater collection will help to prevent and reduce stormwater pollution.

It is the responsibility of each department to ensure that their employees are properly trained on these power washing guidelines as needed, and that all affected personnel receive a copy of these procedures prior to beginning Power Washing operations.

This guidance has been developed to comply with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, WQP-27, Low-Risk Discharges section.

Stormwater -

Faculty, staff, students, or contractors who may conduct or assist with power washing on UNC's campus must follow these guidelines. Some University departments that may fall under these guidelines include, but are not limited to: Facilities Management, Dining Services, Housing and Residential Education, and the Recreation Center.

When an individual or assistant is conducting power washing the following PPE shall be worn at all times:

- Leather gloves
- Safety glasses (goggles preferred)
- No slip shoes or over boots

The department supervisor is responsible for providing the appropriate PPE.

Preventing illicit discharges into the City of Greeley storm sewer system is vital, and employees are required to take steps to prevent and control such events while performing power washing activities. Before conducting any power washing activities:

Employees shall identify the location(s) of any nearby storm sewer drains.

Employees should ensure they are aware of the location of spill prevention and control materials such as drain covers and absorbent socks or pads.

The UNC Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Plan is available in the EHS office in Parson Hall.

The UNC Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPC Tw 10ny ( C)6(o)9(nt)2 (r)7  
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Sweep up trash, debris, dirt before power washing.  
Ensure the area is clear of any materials that may wash away during power washing activity

- C. Minimize the amount of water used during power washing.
- D. At no time should any soap or chemical cleaners be used when power washing outdoors.
- E. Hoses must be placed out of walking pathways to prevent tripping hazards.
- F. The operator shall always maintain a firm grip on the wand assembly when operating the unit.
- G. The operator shall not place a hand or other body part in front of the pressure washing wand while in operation.
- H. The operator shall not direct the water stream toward people, electrical outlets, circuit breakers, or other electrical equipment.
- I. The operator shall never leave operating equipment unattended.
- J. All other personnel shall maintain a minimum distance of 20 feet from all pressure washing operations.
- K. When discharging power washing wastewater to land, the following conditions must be met:

Discharges shall only be from the washing of surfaces exposed to precipitation such as building exteriors, outdoor parking lots, sidewalks, patio areas, and exteriors of vehicles (except for vehicles beds, chutes, or other surfaces used for containing or transferring materials)

The discharge shall not be from washing activities associated with spills that require reporting.

The water can be discharged onto the grass as long as it does not harm the vegetation, and the water does not run out of the grass area.

The addition of chemicals and detergents to the wash water or to the discharge is strictly prohibited.

Floating or solid materials shall not be evident in the discharge.

A visible sheen shall not be evident in the discharge.

The discharge shall not cause erosion of a land surface.

The discharge shall not occur during a stormwater runoff event

- L. All wastewater from power washing activities that do not meet the land discharge conditions should be properly collected or discharged into the