

BEST PRACTICES



Pressure Washing & Spring Cleaning

As the vibrant colors of spring come to life, property owners and businesses dust off their pressure washers, ready to spiffy their spaces after a long winter. The dynamic duo of pressure washing and spring-cleaning activities promises to breathe new life into surroundings, boost curb appeal, and uphold annual maintenance needs for your property. But wait! It's important to know that pressure washing can harm the environment, so it's crucial to adopt the best ways of doing things to protect our surroundings. We encourage you to sweep instead of pressure washing whenever possible!



Protecting Our Waters

The main problem with pressure washing is that toxins and sediment enter stormwater systems and then flow to our waterways, causing harm to habitats, creatures, and people who depend on healthy water! As you embark on your spring-cleaning journey, remember—only rain down the stormdrain. Please follow best practices to reduce environmental harm:

- 1. Avoid Cleaning Agents:** Even biodegradable soaps and non-toxic cleaners impact our rivers, lakes and streams. If you have to use cleaners, read the label and choose safer products. Stay away from products that say danger or poison.
- 2. Control Runoff:** Before pressure washing, take steps to manage runoff. Make sure to block or plug any storm drains in the path of your wash water. Direct wash water away from paved surfaces to lawns or gardens.
- 3. Capture and Reuse Water:** Explore the use of a pressure washer with a water reclamation system or manually collect runoff. You can use captured water without cleaners for tasks like watering plants, reducing overall water consumption and environmental impacts.
- 4. Regular Maintenance of Pressure Washing Equipment:** Conduct regular inspections to ensure efficient operation. Address any leaks or malfunctions promptly to minimize water usage and the accidental release of contaminants.
- 5. Schedule Wisely:** Choose a dry day to pressure wash. Pressure washing when it's raining will increase the risk of wash water entering the storm drain.

Safe, Simple Actions

Simple actions lead to simple solutions, how we manage our tasks can dramatically impact the health of our community. As we embrace the spirit of spring, let's prioritize the health of our waterways. By adopting cleaning best practices, we not only enhance the aesthetics and longevity of our properties, but contribute to a safer, healthier environment for generations to come.

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