

For consumers



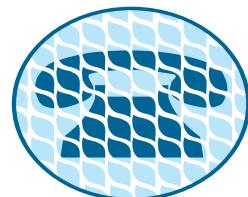
Do your research

Make sure whichever company you choose is capable of complying with these guidelines. As a consumer, you may be held responsible for an illicit discharge on your property.

You can help prevent water pollution by choosing a pressure washer that has the equipment and expertise necessary to properly dispose of their wastewater. Before scheduling services, ask your provider what their plans are for wastewater disposal.

Report illicit discharges

Call the Stormwater Hotline at 706-614-1282 if you notice anyone dumping into a storm drain — and not just pressure washers.



Stormwater
HOTLINE
706.614.1282



Contact us

ACC Stormwater Management Program

706-613-3440

120 W. Dougherty Street

Athens, GA 30601

www.athensclarkecounty.com/stormwater

stormwater@athensclarkecounty.com



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Stormwater Solutions: Smart Surface Cleaning



This brochure provides information for service providers and consumers about the proper management and disposal of pressure washing liquid and debris.

In Athens-Clarke County, all storm drains lead directly to a water source. If not properly contained, wastewater from pressure washing can carry pollutants from our streets to our streams. Remember, only rain down the storm drain.



What's the problem?

Please be aware of the Street-to-Stream stormwater connection. Water and debris that enter the stormwater system (including streets, gutters, and storm drains) drain directly into local streams and rivers without any treatment.

Pressure washing, or surface cleaning, is a method of removing loose oils, dirt, paint, mold, and other materials from hard surfaces. If not properly contained and disposed of, wastewater generated from pressure washing can contribute to water pollution, even when hazardous cleaning products are not used.

Allowing the by-products of pressure washing to enter Athens-Clarke County's (ACC) storm water system is considered an illicit discharge. Nonstormwater discharges into storm drains can clog pipes, cause flooding, and degrade water quality. They are strictly prohibited by ACC's Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance (Chapter 5-4, Article II).



Where should the wastewater go?

1

Capture the water.

First, designate an area where water will collect, usually a low lying area. These areas need to have a dam or berm to capture the water.

2

Soak up excess liquid.

While pressure washing, use a vacuum pump or hose to soak up the excess liquid.

3

Dispose of wastewater properly.

With permission from the property owner, release the wastewater into nearby landscaped areas or down a sanitary sewer line, such as a sink. If you plan on making a large discharge into a sanitary sewer, notify the closest wastewater treatment plant.

4

Rinse off surfaces and materials.

Use new water to rinse off the surfaces that came into contact with wash water. This prevents rainwater from washing off any remaining contaminants. Rinse water should also be contained and disposed of properly.

More tips for smart surface cleaning



- **Fill out a pressure washing application** at the ACC Planning Department.
- **Plan ahead of time.** Know where you will dispose of your wastewater before starting.
- **Remove any visible pollutants** before starting to pressure wash.
- **Contain your work area** by keeping equipment and supplies organized and clean. Promptly clean up any spills.
- **Conserve water.** Use as little water as possible and avoid cleaning products made with hazardous materials.
- **Cover nearby storm drains** to avoid accidental discharges.
- **Be thorough when cleaning up your work area.** Do not leave standing water on site and remember to sweep up any debris leftover from pressure washing.

