

Guidelines for Mobile Washing, Pressure Washing, and Cosmetic Cleaning Activities

- Use of soap, detergent, degreaser, solvent, emulsifier, dispersant or any other harmful cleaning substance (even if listed as “bio-degradable”) is strictly prohibited unless the wastewater is captured on-site to be disposed of via the sanitary sewer (see below) or an alternatively approved method.
 - If the operator chooses to capture the wastewater on-site, screen all chemicals and compounds used for cleaning and eliminate the use of those that contain toxic organic compounds, heavy metals, high levels of phosphates, or very high/very low pH.
 - If the wastewater is disposed of through the City’s sanitary sewer system, the operator must consult with the Industrial Wastewater Manager for approval. The Industrial Wastewater Manager can be contacted through the City of Abilene’s Water Department at 325-676-6042.
- Cold water application is recommended; however, if hot water is required for the operations ensure that the wastewater temperature is less than 140° F prior to leaving the site, entering the sanitary sewer system, or entering the City’s drainage system.
- All surfaces containing loose soil, gravel, or any other loose aggregate shall be swept and removed from the site prior to washing so as to minimize the amount of debris and grit contained in the resulting wastewater.
- Collect all trash, litter, grass clippings, and debris from the area and place in a proper trash bin or waste receptacle for disposal prior to conducting washing activities.
- Use absorbents such as mats or pads, rice hull ash, cat litter, vermiculite, peat moss or sand to soak up recently spilled contaminants (e.g. cooking grease, motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid, and transmission fluid). Sweep, vacuum, shovel, and/or wipe-up these saturated absorbents and dispose of properly.
- The Administrator or his designee reserve the authority to require additional best management practices (BMPs) if in the opinion of the Administrator the BMP is required to reduce or terminate the introduction of pollutant loads to the City’s drainage system.
- If you have any questions regarding these requirements you may contact the City of Abilene Stormwater Services Division at 325-676-6281.

Addition of pollutants via mobile washing, pressure washing, or cosmetic cleaning is a violation of federal, state, and local regulations. Failure to comply with these regulations could result in enforcement actions up to and including citations.

Remember, contaminants that enter our drainage ways will eventually enter our local creeks and lakes, which provides Abilene with its valuable drinking water source.