

April 15, 2021

Accurate Power Washing

**RE: Discharge of Pressure Washing Wastewater to the Storm Sewer System.**

Madison General Ordinance (MGO) 7.46(3) “Water Pollution Control” and MGO 7.47(3) “Regulation of Discharge of Non-storm Water”, as well as State Statutes 29.601(3); “Deleterious Substances” and State Statutes Chapter 283; “Pollution Discharge Elimination” regulate the discharge of outdoor pressure washing wastewater to the storm sewer system.

Wastewater from any outdoor washing must be directed to a permeable surface or collected for proper disposal. For areas where this is not practical, these practices must be followed:

1. Detain the wash water long enough to allow suspended solids to settle, or filter suspended solids from the waste stream.
2. Properly dispose of settled or filtered solids.
3. Only biodegradable detergents containing less than 0.5% phosphate are permitted.
4. Use of detergents must be minimized. The waste stream shall be free of visible foam.
5. Oil and grease from kitchen ventilation systems must be removed before the wastewater reaches the storm sewer system.

Additional Best Management Practices (BMPs) are found at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website: [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/documents/59153\\_fs.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/documents/59153_fs.pdf)

Removal of paint with power equipment, including power washing, is subject to further regulation. Contact Public Health Madison and Dane County at 608-243-0330 or <http://www.publichealthmdc.com> for more information.

Businesses found in violation of MGO 7.46/7.47 will be referred to the City Attorney for prosecution or ticketed. Failure to comply may result in a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) or more than two thousand dollars (\$2000) per offense. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate offense. Violators will also be assessed for cleanup costs associated with the violation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Rick Wenta: 225-2396, Environmental Protection Unit, Public Health-Madison and Dane Co.