Disposal Options for Wastewater Generated by Power Washers

Power washing wastewater cannot be discharged into the storm sewer. The applicable code that applies to the discharges into storm sewers or watercourses can be found in Article 5 of Chapter 6-5 of the Austin City Code (Water Quality).

Pollution Prevention and Reduction Office
24-Hour Hotline - Office # 974-2550 or Pager # 802-7354

Power washing wastewater may be allowed to discharge into the sanitary sewer under certain conditions. The applicable code that applies to the discharges into the sanitary sewer system can be found in Chapter 15-10 of the Austin City Code. The Special Services Division of the Austin Water Utility regulates industrial wastewater discharges into the sanitary sewer system. Since this type of wastewater cannot discharge into the storm sewer, it must be collected and transported to either the landfill or a private fixed site facility connected to the City’s sanitary sewer collection system. You cannot dump this wastewater down a cleanout, manhole or toilet at the site you are cleaning. Hauled industrial wastewater is not allowed for disposal at the City’s Approved Receiving Station, located at the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. To establish your own private fixed site facility, certain conditions must be met:

- A Permit Application must be submitted for review.
- All industrial wastewater discharges must be authorized by permit.
- The fixed site facility must have appropriate pretreatment (e.g., grit trap).
- A review will be performed to determine if a wastewater flow meter will be required to be installed on the discharge from the fixed site to facilitate billing for wastewater charges and, possibly wastewater surcharges.

Do not proceed without first contacting the Special Services Division of the Austin Water Utility. Office # 972-1060 or 24-Hour Pager # 802-8919

Landfill – Local landfills may be another option for the disposal of hauled liquid waste. Please call and check with each landfill site for their individual requirements.

An unauthorized discharge into the sanitary sewer system is a violation of Ch. 15-10, considered a Class C Misdemeanor and is punishable with a fine of up to $2,000 per day per violation.