



Managing Street Wash Water Runoff

Stormwater Fact Sheet – Protecting Our Water Quality

In arid environments like here in Arizona, controlling dust emission is a constant battle. Construction site and industrial facility operations are common sources of dust. The Maricopa County Air Quality Department issues permits to control air emissions, including fugitive dust, from these operations. One common requirement is that permitted operations and facilities control the trackout of sediment onto roadways or other areas accessible to the public (e.g. sidewalks). As such, operators must frequently clean these areas to maintain compliance with their permit.

REMEMBER, ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN

The purpose of the storm drain system is to protect against flooding and water damage by quickly removing rain water from our streets. This water gets **no treatment** and may ultimately drain into washes, lakes, retention basins, community parks, and can even make its way into the Salt and Gila rivers. This is why the City has ordinances and programs to reduce pollutants into our storm drains.

Although street wash water is allowed to be discharged to the City's storm sewer system, associated pollutants such as debris and sediment are prohibited. This is why it is important to remember - ***only rain in the storm drain***.

TIPS FOR STREET WASH WATER

Industrial facilities and construction sites that discharge debris and sediment to City streets must clean up after their operations in a reasonable amount of time; but they must also do it properly. Washing these pollutants further into the storm sewer system (i.e. washing them into catch basins or other stormwater inlet structures) is not an option. A careful balance must be met between applying enough water to clean the street, but not so much as to either flood the street or cause pollutants to be discharged further into the system.



Mechanical brush

Below are some tips on how you how to apply street wash water and reduce the discharge of associated pollutants, therefore operating in compliance with City ordinances.

1. Inspect egress areas frequently (at least once a day)
2. Install adequately sized control measures (e.g. grizzly grates, or gravel pads) at egress areas to minimize trackout
3. Remove all loose debris and sediment prior to applying water by manual or mechanical sweeping
4. Apply only the amount of water necessary to complete the job
5. If you wash the street down using a water truck, do this using the following method:
 - Sweep the surface with a mechanical brush applying only the amount of water necessary
 - Inspect the surface before applying water with the water truck.
 - If loose sediment or debris remains, or if the surface is muddy repeat cleaning with a mechanical brush or street sweeper until only soil staining on the surface remains
 - Apply street wash water from the water truck only on a clean surface or surface where only soil staining remains
6. Inspect and clean surfaces not accessible to the public frequently as well to prevent the discharge of pollutants from these areas



Street Sweeper in tandem with Water Truck



For more information call the Environmental Hotline at 480-644-3599.