

# Washing Discharge Options

The following table provides a quick summary of where water associated with various washing activities can discharge. This table is based on the Source Control Best Management Practices for Commercial and Industrial Facilities related to Cleaning and Washing available in Volume 6, Chapter 2 of the City of Tacoma Stormwater Management Manual. This table provides guidance only, site specific scenarios may warrant a different discharge requirement. Contact City of Tacoma Environmental Compliance at (253) 591-5588 for additional questions.

Item to be Washed and Associated BMP Number	Wastewater System	Closed Loop Recycle System Before Discharge to Wastewater System	Temporary Storage Before Discharge to Wastewater System	Stormwater System	Landscaped Areas
<b>Tools, Equipment, Machinery – BMP S109</b>					
All	Allowed – Note 1	Allowed – Note 1	Allowed – Note 1	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
<b>Cooking Equipment – BMP S110</b>					
All	Allowed – Note 2	Allowed – Note 2	Allowed – Note 2	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
<b>Building Structures and Related Equipment – BMP S111</b>					
Exterior Building Walls and Windows	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed – Note 3	Allowed – Note 3
Rooftop Equipment	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Parking Lots	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Sidewalks	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed – Note 3	Allowed – Note 3
Graffiti	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
<b>Vehicles – BMP S112</b>					
All	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
New and Used Car Lots	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Events Where Vehicle Washing May Occur	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
RV, Truck, Auto Detailing, and Engine Washing Facilities	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Boat Washing	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Mobile Washing (includes grocery cart washing)	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Allowed – Note 4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
<b>Dock Washing – BMP S113</b>					
All	Allowed – Note 5	Allowed – Note 5	Allowed – Note 5	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

Note 1: Pressure washing must be conducted on a designated permanent or temporary wash pad that drains to the wastewater system through an approved pretreatment device.

Note 2: Outdoor washing must be conducted on a designated permanent or temporary wash pad that drains to the wastewater system through an approved pretreatment device.



**Note: This Tip Sheet does not substitute for codes and regulations.**

**The applicant is responsible for compliance with all codes and regulations, whether or not described in this document.**

**More information: City of Tacoma, Planning and Development Services | [www.tacomapermits.org](http://www.tacomapermits.org) (253) 591-5030**

To request this information in an alternative format or a reasonable accommodation, please call 253-591-5030 (voice).

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Note 3: Cold Water Only with no potential to contain oils, soaps, detergents, paint, or other pollutants. Stormwater Inlet Protection shall be used for all inlets that may be impacted during the cleaning activity.

Note 4: Two-step (acid-alkaline) washing is allowed if washwater rinsate is neutralized prior to discharging to the wastewater system. Washing shall occur on a designated permanent or temporary wash pad that drains to the wastewater system through an approved pretreatment device. For mobile washing only – Two-step (acid-alkaline) washing is not allowed. If a designated wash pad is not available: use a temporary wash pad or wash ensuring only cold water is used, no soaps or detergents are used, the stormwater system is plugged and all washwater is collected for disposal to the wastewater system.

Note 5: Block drains and collect washwater and debris for proper disposal.



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