



City of Cañon City

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Special Business Edition May, 2018 Stormwater Management Program News

Featured Stormwater Best Management Practice: Nyloplast Snout/EnviroHood

The Nyloplast EnviroHood is designed to be attached to the inside of a storm drain catch basin or a manhole to prevent the outflow of trash and oil into the storm system. Several of these structures have been installed at businesses around the City. They use less space than traditional stormwater quality infrastructure such as detention basins and provide effective removal of trash, sediment and oil, which makes them a great BMP for businesses such as restaurants or those with limited space. Two of the EnviroHoods were recently installed at the new Dairy Queen: one in their trash enclosure and one in the parking lot. Village Inn also has installed one just outside of their trash enclosure which captures the runoff from the enclosure. Maintenance of the EnviroHood entails regular cleaning with a vacuum truck, large wet/shop vacuum or trash pump. For more information please contact the City of Cañon City Stormwater Program or visit the Nyloplast website at <http://www.nyloplast-us.com/water-quality>.



Dairy Queen



Village Inn



Power Washing:

Power washing of parking lots, buildings and sidewalks by a business owner, manager, or employee, or by a contracted company, is prohibited by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Water Quality Control Division (CDPHE WQCD) and by the City of Cañon City ordinance *unless certain requirements are met*.

The CDPHE considers water generated by power washing operations as a “process wastewater” which requires a Colorado Discharge Permit in order to be discharged to any body of water within the state. This also includes irrigation ditches and laterals and ditches that are normally dry. **Unless a company has a Colorado Discharge Permit, any discharge of wash water from power washing to a body of water, either directly or via a storm**

sewer is considered an illegal discharge and may incur a fine. However, CDPHE cannot permit all power washing which occurs. To address this type of discharge the CDPHE has issued a Low Risk Discharge Guidance which can be accessed at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ%20LOW%20RISK%20POWER%20WASHING%200.pdf>.

Why is power washing prohibited unless certain requirements are met?

The water generated by power or pressure washing, including just hosing down a paved area, picks up any dirt, automotive fluids, trash, chemicals, metal traces, landscaping waste, etc. and carries it to the nearest street where it enters the storm sewer system. This contaminated water is then discharged to the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek. It is **not** treated before entering the river or creek. This water is considered an “illicit discharge”. An illicit discharge is anything other than stormwater entering the storm sewer system.

So how can I keep my parking lot, buildings and sidewalk clean?

The best alternative to power washing is to use dry absorbent material to soak up any spills such as oil, grease, chemicals, etc. and then sweep it up and dispose of it in the garbage. Dry sweeping of parking lots and sidewalks is the best way to ensure that contaminated water does not enter the storm sewer system. Sweepings should be placed in the garbage for disposal.

Can I power wash at all?

If you feel that power washing is still the method you need to use, the following requirements must be met:

1) All wastewater from the power washing must be trapped on your property and not allowed to run into the street or storm system. Water can then be allowed to evaporate and any residues swept up and disposed of in the garbage. If the property has drains which lead into the storm sewer system, they need to be blocked with rock bags to prevent the water from entering. These items can be purchased at your local hardware store. Some local contractors also sell these items.



2) Water can also be vacuumed up with a wet vac and disposed of in the sanitary sewer, *if you have permission from the wastewater treatment plant to dispose of it this way (i.e. Fremont Sanitation District)*. Again, the water cannot leave your property and run into the street or storm sewer system.

3) Water from power washing can be channeled into a vegetated area, providing there is nothing in the water that will harm the vegetation and that the water does not pool or spill over into the street.

Please be aware that the same conditions apply to window washing wastewater, even if the water does not contain soaps or cleansers or contains bio-degradable cleansers. Window washing should be done with the minimum amount of water. It can be allowed to pool on the sidewalk and evaporate or be directed into a vegetated area as long as the water contains nothing that is harmful to the vegetation. Again, the wastewater cannot flow into the street or a storm drain or overspill the vegetated area.

For more information on The City of Cañon City’s Municipal Code concerning illicit discharges, please visit our website at www.canoncity.org.

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either grdebekker@canoncity.org or 276-5265. You may also write to The City of Cañon City’s Stormwater Program, P.O. Box 1460, Cañon City, CO 81215-1460.