

Exterior Washing Standards UT-EHS



The University of Texas at Austin
Environmental Health & Safety

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The University of Texas at Austin

All exterior washing activities on UT Austin campuses conducted by UT Austin personnel **and/or contractors** must follow the written procedures listed below. These procedures comply with the UT Austin Design and Construction Standard 015723 Temporary Storm Water Pollution Control and the UT Austin EHS Construction Site Procedures for Contractors.

Exterior washing includes, but is not limited to the following activities:

- Brick washing
- Removing graffiti from outdoor structures and buildings
- Pressure washing vehicles
- Cleaning outdoor structures and buildings via pressure washing
- Pressure washing animal waste

1. Exterior Washing including chemicals, cleaners, or detergents:

- Discharges from exterior washing that use chemicals, cleaners or detergents must **not** be allowed to enter a storm sewer. The rinsate must be collected at the point of discharge for disposal. There are three potential disposal options:
 - Option 1: The wash rinsate is collected and containerized for hazardous disposal. The responsible UT party must label the containers and submit a waste request via the [Environmental Management System](#). Contact EHS-HazardousMaterials@austin.utexas.edu for more information on hazardous waste disposal.
 - Option 2: Depending on the content of the waste, it may be possible to discharge to a sanitary sewer with prior written approval from EHS. However, this option requires a discharge request <https://ehs.utexas.edu/discharge-request> to be submitted by the responsible UT party. Contact EHS-EnvironmentalOps@austin.utexas.edu for more information on discharge requests.
 - Option 3: Acidic rinsate may be approved for discharge to a sanitary sewer similar to option 2 with EHS written approval and by completing all of the steps below:
 - Completely capture all rinsate and containerized on site in appropriate barrels or waste containers.
 - Submit a discharge request to EHS via <https://ehs.utexas.edu/discharge-request>

- Neutralize the waste in the container with baking soda or similar product to bring the pH to an acceptable level (6.0 -11.0 s.u.)
- Verify pH levels with pH strips
- Once the pH strips show an acceptable pH level, notify EHS who will verify the results
- Once the pH levels are verified, EHS will approve the request and you can release to the sanitary system. The waste must be filtered to prevent sediment from entering the sanitary system (per the requirements of the City of Austin)

2. Exterior Washing includes **water and sediment loads**:

- Washing, particularly pressure washing, generates fine sediment that is considered a stormwater pollutant. Therefore, discharges containing sediment must be filtered before entering storm drains. An online discharge request must be submitted by the responsible UT party to EHS via <https://ehs.utexas.edu/discharge-request>. EHS will review the submitted stormwater infrastructure protection plan. The chlorine levels in potable water are also considered a stormwater pollutant. Any discharge within 50 feet of Waller Creek or a storm inlet may require dechlorination tablets.
 - Option 1: Ensure the runoff is directed to a grassy area with prior permission from Landscape Services. The area needs to be large enough to accept the discharge volume.
 - Option 2: Build temporary berming to capture the process water, allow it to evaporate, and physically collect the sediment for disposal.

Note: For projects consisting of large discharge volumes of potable water, storm water infrastructure protection is required (inlet protection, berms, etc.)

3. Washing of **bird and/or bat droppings**:

- Bird and bat dropping accumulation creates an environment favorable for the growth of organisms harmful to people. Please refer to the EHS Bird and Bat Dropping Abatement Procedures document or contact EHS at (512) 471-3511

Notification

UT-EHS **(512) 471-3511** should be notified immediately in the event of: Any discharge from your site which you suspect may be in violation of City Code, state regulations, or other applicable laws and regulations, e.g. discharges which are cloudy, foul smelling, discolored, contain chemicals or heavy sediment loads.

Notification can be accomplished by calling the UT-Austin EHS hotline at (512) 471-3511 or emailing EHS-EnvironmentalOps@austin.utexas.edu during regular business hours (M-F 8am-5pm) or calling 911 after hours.