

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM
(NPDES)**

As authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Industrial, municipal, and other facilities must obtain permits if their discharges go directly to surface waters. In most cases, the NPDES permit program is administered by authorized states. In the state of Virginia, the program is known as the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Program. Since being introduced in 1972, the NPDES permit program is responsible for significant improvements to our Nation's water quality.*

**Source: Environmental Protection Agency*



For More Information Please Contact:

City of Danville - Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
434.799.5019

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
804.698.4086

Or Visit The DEQ Website At:
<http://www.deq.state.va.us/vpdes/permitfees.html>



A Guide For Wastewater Discharges From Commercial Car Washing



Prepared & Distributed By:
**City of Danville, Virginia
Department of Public Works**

Where Do Storm Drains Go?

Some people believe that discharges and runoff that enter into storm drains go to the wastewater treatment plant before being released into the environment. The fact is that anything that enters a storm drain is discharged back into the environment untreated. This is because storm drainage systems and sanitary sewer systems are separate from each other.



Stormwater pipes discharge directly into the environment without treatment.

What Is Generated From Washing A Car ?

Every time a car is washed, a fine toxic mix is discharged. If just water alone is used to wash a car, the discharge would consist of oils, grease, brake lining elements, rust, trace amounts of benzene and possibly chromium, and a few other substances. Add soap and now the mixture potentially includes phenols, dyes, acids, and ammonia. All of these items can have adverse effects on aquatic life and degrade the water quality of our local watercourses that we use for recreational purposes such as boating and fishing.

What is Required For Disposal Of Wastewater Generated By Commercial Car Washing?

If a commercial car wash has a point source discharge of wash water to surface waters or to the City's stormwater drainage system, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requires that coverage for that discharge be obtained under the General VPDES Permit. As an alternative, a connection can be made to the City's sanitary collection system which would route all wash water to the municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant. Certain requirements for filtration apply to both VPDES permit coverage and for connection to the City's sanitary sewer system.

City of Danville—Urban Stormwater Quality Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (Chapter 9, Article V, Division 7).

Section 9-179.24 of the Danville City Code states that *“No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses any materials, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing any pollutants that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standards, other than storm water.”* This includes commercial car washing unless the activity falls under exception #2 of Section 9-179.24 which states the following: *“The prohibition shall not apply to any non-stormwater discharge permitted under a VPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and administered by the State*

of Virginia under the authority of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted by the City for any discharge to the storm drain system.”

Frequently Asked Questions.

I have been operating a car wash at this location for years. Do these requirements apply to me? Yes. These requirements apply to all commercial car washes regardless of the number of years in business.

I see car washes operating throughout the City. Are those businesses meeting these requirements? All commercial car washes in the City limits will be evaluated to determine if they are in compliance.

Do these requirements only apply to the City of Danville? No. The requirement to regulate wastewater discharge is a nationwide requirement mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The City's ordinance only applies to Danville but other localities should have similar ordinances.

If I choose to ignore these requirements and continue discharging wash waters, what will happen? Discharging commercial wastewater without proper permit authorization from DEQ is a violation of state and federal law and can result in enforcement actions by DEQ. The business would also be in violation of the aforementioned City ordinance which is a Class 2 misdemeanor.
