

Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning Pollution Prevention Procedure

Targeted Constituents

Sediment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nutrients	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Metals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bacteria	
Oil and Grease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oxygen Demanding	



Description

Wash water from vehicle and equipment cleaning activities performed outdoors or in areas where wash water flows onto the ground can contribute toxic hydrocarbons and other organic compounds, oils and greases, nutrients, phosphates, heavy metals, and suspended solids to storm water runoff. Washing operations outside should be conducted in a designated wash area having the following characteristics if possible:

- Paved with Portland cement concrete,
- Covered and bermed to prevent contact with storm water and contain wash water,
- Sloped for wash water collection,
- Equipped with an oil/water separator, if necessary.

Use of the procedures outlined below can prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to storm water during vehicle and equipment cleaning.

Suggested Protocols

General

- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents for washing vehicles as appropriate.
- Mark the area clearly as a wash area.
- Post signs stating that only washing is allowed in wash area and that discharges to the storm drain are prohibited.
- Provide a trash container in wash area.
- Map on-site storm drain locations to avoid discharges to the storm drain system.
- Emphasize the connection between the storm drain system and runoff and help reinforce that car washing activities can have an affect on local water quality. This can be accomplished through storm drain stenciling programs.

Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning

- Design wash areas to properly collect and dispose of wash water when engine cleaning is conducted and when chemical additives, solvents, or degreasers are used. This may include installation of sumps or drain lines to collect wash water or construction of a berm around the designated area and grading of the area to collect wash water as well as prevent storm water run-on.
- Consider washing vehicles and equipment inside a building if washing/cleaning must occur on-site. This will help to control the targeted constituents by directing them to the sanitary sewer. A gravel area is another alternative that can be used.
- If washing must occur on-site and outdoor:
 - Use designated paved wash areas. Designated wash areas must be well marked with signs indicating where and how washing must be done. This area must be covered or bermed to collect the wash water and graded to direct the wash water to a treatment or disposal facility.

- A gravel area is another alternative that can be used.
- Oil changes and other engine maintenance cannot be conducted in the designated washing area. Perform these activities in a place designated for such activities.
- Cover the wash area when not in use to prevent contact with rain water.
- Use hoses with nozzles that automatically turn off when left unattended.
- Perform pressure cleaning and steam cleaning off-site to avoid generating runoff with high pollutant concentrations. If done on-site, no pressure cleaning and steam cleaning should be done in areas designated as wellhead protection areas for public water supply.

Disposal

- Discharge vehicle wash water to (1) the sanitary sewer or a holding tank, or (2) an enclosed recycling system if possible, or (3) a gravel area.

Spill Response and Prevention

- Have spill cleanup materials readily available and in a known location.
- Clean up spills immediately and use dry methods if possible.
- Properly dispose of spill cleanup material.

Training

- Train employees on proper cleaning and wash water disposal procedures and conduct "refresher" courses on a regular basis.
- Train staff on proper maintenance measures for the wash area.
- Train employees and contractors on proper spill containment and cleanup. The employee should have the tools and knowledge to immediately begin cleaning up a spill if one should occur.