



VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT CLEANING

Vehicle and equipment cleaning activities can contribute toxic hydrocarbons and other organic compounds, oils and greases, nutrients, heavy metals, and suspended solids to stormwater runoff. Use of the procedures outlined below can prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to stormwater during vehicle and equipment cleaning.

- 1. Inspection and Cleaning of Stormwater Conveyance Structures**
- 2. Controlling Illicit Connections and Discharges**
- 3. Controlling Illegal Dumping**

POLLUTION PREVENTION:

Pollution prevention measures have been considered and incorporated in the model procedures. Implementation of these measures may be more effective and reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more complicated or costly procedures. Possible pollution prevention measures for vehicle and equipment cleaning include:

- Use outside service agencies to clean vehicles and equipment.
- Once per year, educate municipal staff on pollution prevention measures.

MODEL PROCEDURES:

If your facility washes or steam cleans a large number of vehicles or pieces of equipment, consider contracting out this work to a commercial business. These businesses are better equipped to handle and dispose of the wash waters properly. Contracting out this work can also be economical by eliminating the need for a separate washing/cleaning operation at your facility.

If washing/cleaning must occur on-site follow these procedures:

- ✓ Use designated, covered, wash areas to prevent contact with stormwater and bermed to contain wash water.
- ✓ Designated wash areas must be well marked with signs indicating where and how washing must be done.
- ✓ Water may be discharged to the sanitary sewer after flowing through a clarifier. If the above conditions are not met, other pre-treatment may be

→ *Note: Permission must be obtained for any discharge of wash water to the sanitary sewer from the local sewerage agency.*

required.

- ✓ Do not permit steam cleaning or engine degreasing at the wash out area.
- ✓ Washing operations should be conducted in a designated wash area having the following characteristics:
 - Paved with Portland cement concrete
 - Covered or bermed to prevent contact with storm water
 - Sloped for wash water collection
 - Connected to the sanitary sewer – upon approval.
 - Clearly designated

OPTIONAL:

- Consider filtering and recycling wash water.
- Equip wash areas with oil/water separators.

LIMITATIONS

Steam cleaning can generate significant pollutant concentrations requiring permitting, monitoring, pretreatment, and inspections. The measures outlined in this procedure sheet are insufficient to address all the environmental impacts and compliance issues related to steam cleaning.

REFERENCES:

California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbooks. Municipal Best Management Practice Handbook. Prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, Larry Walker Associates, Uribe and Associates, Resources Planning Associates for Stormwater Quality Task Force. March 1993.

The Stormwater Mangers Resource Center (<http://www.stormwatercenter.net/>)

Model Urban Runoff Program: A How-To Guide for Developing Urban Runoff Programs for Small Municipalities. Prepared by City of Monterey, City of Santa Cruz, California Coastal Commission, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Woodward-Clyde, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. July. 1998.