

Vehicle Equipment Washing & Cleaning

Clean Business Program



You are responsible for preventing stormwater pollution while washing or cleaning vehicles and equipment.

Why is Washing and Cleaning a Concern?

If not done correctly, any outdoor activity at your business can cause pollution. Water used to wash off equipment can contain pollution, even soapy water can pollute. Eventually, this wash water will reach a storm drain. Once in the storm drain this untreated pollution goes straight to the environment.

Storm drains are meant for rain water only!

What can I do? Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Good housekeeping will prevent most pollution.

- If possible, take vehicles/equipment to a commercial washing or steam cleaning business where the wash water will be captured and then treated at a wastewater treatment plant.
- Use dry methods when possible. Wipe down with rags. Do not use a hose and water.
- Never let wash water run into the street, gutter or an outdoor drain. Instead, let it soak into the ground, or use a bucket and dump it in an indoor drain.
- Clean up when finished, by collecting all rags and towels. Sweep and throw trash away.

If washing vehicles and equipment is a large part of your business, extra equipment may be required to contain and treat the wastewater.

- Designate a wash area for equipment.
- Prevent rain from running over wash area with a raised pad or perimeter drains, and cover.
- Recycle wash water; or connect to the wastewater system, check with local agency for permit and pretreatment requirements.

Train all employees to follow these guidelines. It will create a safer workplace and reduce the risk of legal problems/fines. Your success depends on a well-trained staff.

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution visit: www.vcstormwater.org or call _____

Pollution Fact Sheet/Business - Vehicle/2005



Vehicle and Equipment Fueling

Clean Business Program



You are responsible for preventing stormwater pollution while fueling vehicles and equipment.

Why is Proper Fueling so Important?

If not done correctly, any outdoor activity at your business can cause pollution. A few drops of spilled fuel can pollute the environment. You may never see these pollutants leave your facility, but rain or sprinkler runoff may carry it to a storm drain. Once in the storm drain this untreated pollution goes directly to the environment.

Storm drains are meant for rain water only!

What can I do? Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Good housekeeping and working carefully will prevent most pollution.

- Discourage “topping off” fuel tanks.
- Use secondary containment when filling portable gas cans.
- Regularly clean with dry methods (sweep, vacuum or damp mop and dump wash water in an indoor drain).
- Work carefully to prevent spills.
- Clean up spills immediately. Use absorbents, then sweep up and dispose of properly.
- Use a rag cleaning service for shop rags used to clean small spills.

Extra steps or equipment may be required to prevent your facility from polluting.

- Designate a fueling area for on-site fueling of equipment.
- Cover fueling area.
- Install vapor recovery nozzles.
- Pave fueling area with concrete or seal asphalt.
- Prevent water from running onto fueling area with a raised pad or perimeter drains.

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Pollution Fact Sheet/Business - Vehicle/2005

