

Clean Business Program Fact Sheet

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT WASHING AND CLEANING

You are responsible to wash or clean vehicles and equipment (machinery, air filters, grease traps, etc.) properly to avoid contributing pollutants to runoff.

WHY IS WASHING AND CLEANING A CONCERN?

Your facility can contribute contaminants to runoff if waste water from equipment and vehicle cleaning is rinsed onto parking lots or into gutters or storm drains. Improperly stored contaminated rags may also result in an illegal discharge.

WHAT CAN I DO?

PREVENT POLLUTED RUNOFF BY:

- Implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) as listed below
- Training employees on BMPs, good housekeeping practices & spill response

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- If possible use off-site commercial washing and steam cleaning.
- Use designated wash areas, preferably covered, to prevent contact with stormwater. berm wash areas or use other measures to contain waste water.
- Use alternative washing and cleaning methods to reduce the potential for non-stormwater discharges. If possible, use "dry" cleaning methods, such as wiping down, rather than hosing vehicles or equipment.
- Never discharge wastewater to the storm drain. Discharge it to the sanitary sewer after contacting your local sewerage agency to find out if pre-treatment is required.
- Properly contain and dispose of cleanup materials (rags, towels, absorbent materials, etc.)
- Clean up spills immediately to minimize safety hazards and prevent discharge to the storm drain system.
- Train all employees. Your success depends on a well-trained staff.