



## IC24. DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER GENERATED BY MOBILE BUSINESSES AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)

A BMP is a technique, measure, or structural control that is used for a given set of conditions to improve the quality of the stormwater runoff in a cost-effective manner.<sup>1</sup> The minimum required BMPs for this activity are outlined in the box to the right. Implementation of pollution prevention/good housekeeping measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures. Proper employee training is key to the success of BMP implementation.

The BMPs outlined in this fact sheet target the following pollutants:

TARGETED CONSTITUENTS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sediment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nutrients
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Floatable Materials
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Metals
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bacteria
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oil and Grease
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Organics and Toxicants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pesticides
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oxygen Demanding

### MINIMUM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

#### Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

- Dispose of wastewater according to the instructions below. No wastewater shall be disposed of into the storm drain system.

#### Training

- Train employees on these BMPs, stormwater discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.
- Provide ongoing employee training in pollution prevention.

### PURPOSE OF THIS BMP

Orange County cities and the County of Orange are mandated under NPDES permits issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards to prohibit the discharge of pollutants and non-stormwater runoff into the storm drain system. Therefore, untreated wastewater (including wastewater from mobile detailing, pressure washing, steam cleaning, carpet cleaning, or similar activities) shall **not** be discharged to the storm drain system.

If you have specific questions regarding any of the BMPs herein, please call your local sewer agency or your City's NPDES Coordinator. The telephone numbers are listed at the end of this document.

<sup>1</sup> EPA Preliminary Data Summary of Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices

## 1. General Best Management Practices and Preparation of Work

### ***What should I do prior to conducting a job?***

The BMPs presented below are intended to help you comply with local and state regulations that prohibit wastewater from entering the storm drain system. The following BMPs must be followed by all mobile businesses or outdoor activities of a fixed business that generate wastewater, regardless of the type of surface to be cleaned or cleaning operation to be performed.

- Evaluate the chemicals and compounds used for cleaning and reduce or eliminate the use of those that contain solvents, heavy metals, high levels of phosphates, or very high/very low pH that exceeds the local sewer agency requirements.
- Walk through the area where the cleaning will occur prior to the start of the job and identify all area drains, yard drains, and catch basins where wastewater could potentially enter the storm drain system.
- Block/seal off identified drains or catch basins using sandbags, plugs, rubber mats, or temporary berms.
- Collect all trash and debris from the project area and place in a trash bin for disposal.
- Sweep all surface areas prior to cleaning to minimize the amount of suspended solids, soil, and grit in the wastewater.
- Identify the wastewater disposal option that will be used. Whether you are discharging to landscaping or the sanitary sewer, it is necessary that you meet all the requirements identified below.
- Conduct mobile washing in accordance with all operating instructions provided by the equipment supplier. Maintain equipment in good working order and routinely check and test all safety features.

### ***What methods can be used to collect wastewater at a site?***

There is no specific containment method that must be used for wastewater collection/diversion. However, the system must be adequately designed so that the wastewater does not flow into an on-site or off-site storm drain inlet. All mobile and existing businesses should use one of the following methods, regardless of the surface to be cleaned or the type of cleaning operation to be performed:

- Portable containment areas can be made from waterproof tarps, heavy-duty plastic, or rubber matting equipped with berms to prevent wastewater from running into storm drain inlets or discharge off-site. Materials that can be used for berms include sandbags or water-filled tubing. Whatever containment material is used, it must seal tightly to the ground so that no wastewater can pass under or over the berms.
- When power washing smaller pieces of equipment, containment devices to use may include portable vinyl swimming pools, plastic 55-gallon drums on casters, and flat metal or plastic containment pads.
- Depending on the volume of wastewater generated, it may be necessary to use a pump system, which may range in size from a wet-dry vacuum to a sump pump. A natural basin from which to pump can also be set up by establishing a slightly sloped containment area.
- Stationary or more permanent containment areas can be constructed with cement. Berms and pump systems may be used to contain wastewater and divert it to a holding tank.
- Commercial wastewater collection systems are also available for power washing. These systems can range from portable wash pits to self-contained water recycling systems. A list of companies selling this type of equipment can usually be found in the telephone book under "Pressure Washing Services and Equipment."

**NOTE:** Blocking storm drain catch basin inlets in the public right-of-way (i.e., public street or other publicly-owned facility) is prohibited as a method of containment, unless expressly permitted by the municipality typically through an encroachment permit process. Wastewater should be contained on-site prior to entering the public right-of-way. Contact the local municipality for more information.

## **2. Wastewater Disposal Options**

### ***How can I dispose of my wastewater?***

Wastewater is not allowed in the storm drain or street. However, the wastewater may be discharged to landscaping or the sanitary sewer or it may be picked up and disposed of by a waste hauler. Please note that if you are unsure of the types of pollutants in the wastewater, laboratory analysis may be required to establish the proper disposal method.

Choose one of the three wastewater disposal options listed below based upon the following conditions:

#### **OPTION 1: Discharge Wastewater to a Landscaped Area**

The wastewater must meet the following requirements if discharging to landscaping:

- The pH must be between 6.5 and 8.5. This can be checked quickly and easily through the use of pH paper test strips.
- The wastewater may not contain:
  - Toxic materials
  - Degreasers
  - Pollutants that may create a fire or explosion hazard (e.g., gasoline or diesel)
  - Solid or viscous pollutants in amounts sufficient to cause obstruction or blockage of flow
  - Petroleum oil or other products of mineral oil origin
  - Paint
- In addition, wastewater from cleaning food-related vehicles or areas, vehicle exteriors or engines, and buildings with lead- or mercury-based paint should **not** be discharged to landscaping.
- Filter the wastewater if it contains debris, fibers, or other suspended solids.
- Ensure that the wastewater is fully contained within the landscaped area and will fully infiltrate into the ground prior to leaving the job site.

#### **OPTION 2: Discharge Wastewater to the Sanitary Sewer**

The wastewater must comply with the following conditions if disposed of into the sanitary sewer system:

- The wastewater temperature must be less than 140°F (60°C).
- The pH must be between 6.0 and 12.0. This can be checked quickly and easily through the use of pH paper test strips. Adjust the wastewater to a pH that is between 6.0 and 12.0. Dilution is not an effective or acceptable pretreatment.
- The wastewater quality must comply with the local sanitary sewer district's discharge limits and requirements. The wastewater should not contain large volumes or concentrations of:
  - Pollutants that may create a fire or explosion hazard (e.g., gasoline or diesel)
  - Solid or viscous pollutants in amounts sufficient to cause obstruction or blockage of flow
  - Petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oil, or other products of mineral oil origin
  - Oil-based paint

Prior to surface washing, you must exercise any reasonable means to eliminate large volumes or concentrations of the above-listed pollutants. Common methods to eliminate standing pools of pollutants include the placement of absorbent to absorb the pollutant, dry sweeping the absorbent, and disposing of the absorbent properly.

- No wastewater shall be discharged into any publicly-owned sewer manholes without the sewer agency's written authorization.
- Filter the wastewater if it contains debris, fibers, or other suspended solids.
- If chemicals (e.g., solvents or acids) are used during the cleaning process, additional precautions may be needed. Contact your local sanitation district to learn if wastewater containing these chemicals requires pretreatment before discharge to the sanitary sewer or if it needs to be treated as hazardous waste.
- Ensure that the wastewater is released at a flow rate and/or concentration, which will not cause problems, pass through, or interference with the sewerage facilities. Generally, if you are using a privately-owned clean-out, sink, toilet, or floor drain at a client's property and the flow does not back up, the flow amount will not cause problems, pass through, or interference with the sewerage facilities.
- Utilizer an approved discharge point such as:
  - Privately-owned clean-out (or sink, toilet or floor drain), oil/water separator, or below-ground clarifier at the client's property where the wash water is generated
  - Privately-owned industrial sewer connection at the client's property where the wash water is generated
  - Waste hauler station at sanitary sewer facility
  - Any other disposal points approved by the sanitary sewer facility
- Maintain a logbook of all discharges.

**OPTION 3: Dispose of Wastewater Using a Professional Hazardous Waste Hauler**

Wastewater that can be characterized in any of the following ways must be disposed of using a hazardous waste hauler:

- Is corrosive (as indicated by a pH value of less than 5.5) or caustic (as indicated by a pH value of greater than 10.0).
- Contains a pollutant that may create a fire or explosion hazard (e.g., gasoline or diesel fuel).
- Contains solid or viscous pollutants in amounts sufficient to cause obstruction or blockage of flow.
- Contains petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oil, or other products of mineral oil origin.
- Contains other potential hazardous wastes. Examples of other potential hazardous wastes include:
  - Wastewater generated from power washing old paint off a building. Paint chips need to be collected, evaluated, and disposed of properly. Paint chips cannot be left on the ground at the job site. Old paint stripped off commercial buildings may contain metals (e.g., lead, chromium, cadmium, and mercury), causing it to be a regulated hazardous waste.
  - Wastewater used in conjunction with certain solvents and degreasing agents, which may cause the wastewater to be classified as a listed or characteristic hazardous waste.

You must comply with the following conditions if a hazardous waste hauler is used:

- Ensure that the waste hauler is certified by the appropriate sanitary sewer agency and the Orange County Health Care Agency, is Hazardous Waste DOT-certified, and is complying with applicable discharge regulations, which may include obtaining necessary permits and conducting

water quality monitoring requirements. Please contact the Orange County Health Care Agency and/or your local fire department for specific requirements.

- Identify the wastes involved and determine if a hazardous waste has been generated.
- Maintain a logbook of all discharges and hazardous waste manifests, if applicable.

**For additional information, contact:**

City of Fountain Valley  
Department of Public Works  
10200 Slater Ave  
Fountain Valley, California 92708  
714.593.4433  
[www.fountainvalley.gov](http://www.fountainvalley.gov)

South Orange County Wastewater Authority  
Industrial Waste Administrator  
34156 Del Obispo Street  
Dana Point, California 92629  
949.234.5412  
[www.socwa.com](http://www.socwa.com)

Moulton Niguel Water District  
27500 La Paz Road  
Laguna Niguel, California 92677-3489  
949.425.3553  
[www.mnwd.com](http://www.mnwd.com)

El Toro Water District  
24251 Los Alisos Boulevard  
Lake Forest, California 92630  
949.837.7050 x224  
[www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com)

Santa Margarita Water District  
26111 Antonio Parkway  
Las Flores, California 92688  
949.459.6581  
[www.smwd.com](http://www.smwd.com)