

## COMMERCIAL & MUNICIPAL POLLUTION PREVENTION

The goal of this document is to prevent or reduce the risk of discharge of pollutants to stormwater from mobile vehicle and fleet washing or cleaning activities.

### OVERVIEW

Outdoor mobile vehicle and fleet washing or cleaning operations such as the washing and cleaning of personal vehicles or fleet can degrade water quality if the wash water is discharged to the stormwater drainage system or to surface water. The wash water from these activities can be contaminated with numerous pollutants present on the surfaces being washed.

#### **Applicable Operations and Activities:**

Any mobile vehicle and fleet washing or cleaning operation or activity, such as the cleaning of fleet vehicles, equipment, or personal vehicles.

#### **Pollution Control Approach:**

Prevent contaminated wash water and pollutants from reaching or being discharged to the stormwater drainage system.

## POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES

- Prior to pressure washing and surface cleaning activities, contact the local stormwater management agency and/or wastewater utility to determine the available options for the proper disposal of wash water.
- Identify and cover all nearby stormwater drains with impervious barriers such as berms, plugs, rubber mats, or screens as needed.
- Ensure stormwater drain covers and the amount of wash water generated will not flood the area or adversely affect vehicle or pedestrian traffic.
- Create a containment area with temporary curbs, berms and tarps as needed to keep wash water contained.
- Clean up as much as possible using dry cleaning methods such as sweeping and vacuuming before washing. Use absorbents on small oil spots.
- Consider surface cleaning only using water; when using detergents and cleaning agents, use the least toxic product needed to get the job done.
- Manage and dispose of wash water from pressure washing and surface cleaning appropriately.

## Key Pollution Prevention and Control Measures

- Identify nearby stormwater drains and protect with covers or screens.
- Create a containment area for wash water contaminated with cleaning agents or pollutants.
- Use the least toxic products needed for cleaning—consider using only water.
- Manage and dispose of wash water from pressure washing and surface cleaning appropriately.
- Minimize water use by using high pressure, low volume nozzles.
- Consider dry methods of cleaning instead of wet washing.

## Targeted Pollutants

- Sediment
- Nutrients
- Organic Matter
- Oil & Grease
- Heavy Metals
- Trash & Debris
- Detergents
- Cleaning Agents

## VEHICLE & FLEET CLEANING WASH WATER MANAGEMENT

| Paved Area? | Using Soap, Detergent or Cleaning Agents? | Wash water Management and Disposal Requirements   |
|-------------|---|---|
| YES         | YES                                       | Use a water collection device that enables collection of the wash water and associated solids. A sump pump, wet vacuum or similar device may be used to collect the wash water and loose material. All collected water and solids must be disposed of properly. |
| YES         | NO  | A filter fabric catch basin insert or other type of filter media/screening device should be used to trap the particles in the wash water runoff. All filtered solids must be disposed of properly.  |
| NO          | YES                                       | Disperse water as sheet flow and allow to infiltrate grass or ground. Do not allow to enter stormwater system or flow to stream or other water body. Ensure this practice does not kill grass or vegetation.  |
| NO          | NO  | Disperse water as sheet flow and allow to infiltrate grass or ground.   |

- Never dispose of wash water containing soap or other cleaning agents, grease, oil, solids, floatable debris or other pollutants onto pavement, or to a stormwater drain, drainage ditch or surface water.
- Discharge wash water to a holding tank truck or sanitary sewer in accordance with local wastewater requirements.
- Pressure washing wastewater that contains visible debris or residue, soap, detergent or other cleaning agents, or excessive amounts of any pollutant, may not be left on paved surfaces to evaporate, because that residue will eventually be discharged to the stormwater drainage system.
- Pressure washing and surface cleaning activities should not be undertaken during rain events or when rain is eminent.
- Minimize water use by using high pressure, low volume nozzles; this reduces the volume of wastewater that needs to be properly disposed.
- Instead of pressure washing and other wet surface cleaning, consider using alternative dry methods.

| Activity   | Schedule  |
|--|---|
| Check storm water drain covers, inlet protection and other containment devices. Remove all accumulations of solids and other contaminants. | Upon completion of pressure washing / cleaning. |
| Properly dispose of wash water and solids.   | Upon completion of pressure washing / cleaning. |

**Spill Prevention and Response**

- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for spill prevention and clean up (see Section 2.1.5).
- Store and maintain appropriate spill cleanup materials on site in a location near work area.

**Considerations for Local Government-Owned or Operated Facilities and Operations**

- All vehicle washing and cleaning activities undertaken by a local government should implement these pollution prevention and control measures. Local government entities engaged in ongoing activities, such as facilities management and public works departments, should develop appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for implementing them.

**Considerations for Industrial NPDES (Georgia IGP) Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs)**

- Fleet washing discharges into stormwater are not authorized under the Georgia IGP.