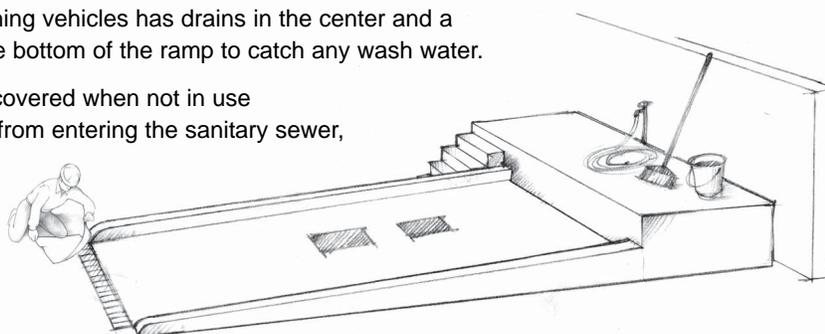


Vehicle & Equipment Washing & Steam Cleaning Best Management Practices

This system for washing vehicles has drains in the center and a perimeter drain at the bottom of the ramp to catch any wash water.

The drains must be covered when not in use to prevent rainwater from entering the sanitary sewer, since there is no roof.



Selection of Best Management Practices

In order to comply with Santa Barbara County's Municipal Storm Water Permit, Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be employed at municipal facilities. BMPs may be selected from the options listed below or developed on a case-by-case basis as appropriate. Facilities with a Water Quality Protection Protocol (WQPP) should follow the BMPs stated in that protocol.

Practices

1. Consider using an offsite commercial washing or cleaning business.
Onsite cleaning options to be used by county or vendors (Only appropriate for cleaning the painted or chromed surfaces. Cleaning engine or other such equipment is prohibited.):
2. Use a designated wash area that is paved, and bermed or sloped so that wash water is contained and directed to a sump with a connection to the sanitary sewer. The washing area should either be covered or have a sump switch to prevent rainwater from entering the sanitary sewer line. The best location for a wash area prevents storm water from contacting the wash pad surface. Without cover, eventually surfactants and wastes from the cleaning process will become mobilized and contribute to pollution of creeks, ocean and groundwater. Always contact the sanitary district for discharge requirements prior to discharging wash water into the sanitary sewer.
3. Use a designated wash area that is paved and protected by permanent or movable berms, dikes, and mats. Contain the wash-water and vacuumed up or otherwise collected for disposal to the sanitary sewer. Wash-water must

Goal / Purpose

Initial

Minimize or prevent the discharge of pollutants into storm drains from vehicle and equipment cleaning operations by discharging to sanitary sewer, containing wash water for offsite disposal or directing wash water (without cleaners) to landscape areas.

Long term

Conduct all washing and steam cleaning operations under cover with water treated prior to release to the sanitary sewer.

Santa Barbara County

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not leave the property. If the driveway is an avenue for runoff it must be bermed to contain the wash-water. Always contact the sanitary district for the discharge requirements prior to discharging wash-water into the sanitary sewer.

4. Conduct rinsing on an unpaved area such as lawn or gravel with just water. Keep washing activities away from storm drains or water conveyances so that the rinse water will infiltrate into the ground and not flow to the storm drains or creeks. This option applies to sites where only one or two vehicles are cleaned every couple of weeks. Do not use this option just before or after a rainstorm.
5. Conduct all steam cleaning activities indoors or on a concrete pad that is bermed or sloped to contain the wastewater with a connection to an oil/water separator and sewer. The best location for a steam cleaning area would preclude storm water from running over the pad, flushing the cleaning products and other pollutants into the storm water runoff. Always contact the sanitary district for the discharge requirements prior to discharging wash water into the sanitary sewer.

General

6. Use phosphate-free, non-toxic, biodegradable soap. Any soap, including those labeled “biodegradable” do not belong in creeks, ocean or ground-water. They are harmful to aquatic life and should never be misconstrued as safe for direct disposal to surface waters (i.e., storm drains). All soaps, detergents and cleaning agents are best treated by a sanitary sewer treatment plant
7. Continue to evaluate safer alternative products for any job that uses toxic or hazardous products. When available and cost effective, these products should be used.
8. Consider using a wash water recycling system.
9. Use as little water as possible during washing. See the County’s Green Team web site for information on water conservation activities.
www.publicworkssb.org/greenteam
10. Promptly clean up any spill of liquid or solid wastes. Do not hose down an

Associated BMPs

- Alternative Safer Products
- Housekeeping
- Spill Prevention & Cleanup
- Storm Drains & Catch Basins

area to clean up a spill, unless the liquid will be completely contained, cleaned up and disposed of to sanitary sewer or offsite as appropriate for the waste type. Do not discharge any liquid to storm drains, landscape or to pavement.

11. Conduct regular inspections of the oil/water separate or holding sump to ensure proper operation and compliance with the local sanitation discharge limitations.
12. Do not wash private vehicles on county property, unless the auto detailer has a procedure for protecting the storm water system by containing the wash water, cleaning up debris, and properly disposing of the wash-water and debris offsite. Disposal of wash-water from commercial car washing activities into the storm drain is illegal.

Field Work

13. In the field, vehicles and equipment shall only be rinsed with plain water to wash off dirt and mud. This rinsing shall take place in a location to minimize any impacts to surface runoff such as an unpaved area away from creeks and other storm water conveyances. No soaps or cleaners will be used unless the wash-water can be disposed of to a sanitary sewer.

Contractor Requirements

14. Ensure that contractors provide the County with a copy of their storm water awareness training and procedures for protecting the storm water system. These procedures should cover activities for handling wash-water and debris.
15. Include specific contract language to inform the contractor that they must comply with federal, state and local storm water rules and regulations as required by the Clean Water Act. Amend existing contracts to include this language, if not already included.

Employee Training

Staff training may include regular tailgate sessions at those facilities that use chemicals. Tailgate sessions should provide information on the selected storm water BMPs and methods for preventing discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system. Encourage employees to suggest modifications for existing BMPs and to create new

BMPs; their suggestions will likely reduce labor and increase stormwater runoff protection. If the above suggested BMPs require some modification to work for you or do not cover some aspect of your operations or facility, call Project Clean Water at 568-3440 for assistance.

Storm water BMP training may be incorporated with other training sessions such as safety training. Facilities with a Storm Water Plan should follow the training requirements stated in that Plan. Records of the training sessions must be kept for at least three years. These records should include who conducted the training, who attended, subjects discussed, and the date(s) of the training.

For additional information on this and other BMPs, or the County's responsibilities under the NPDES Phase II federal regulations for storm water discharges, see www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater or contact Project Clean Water staff at 568-3440.