



EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Vehicle or equipment maintenance has the potential to be a significant source of stormwater pollution. Engine repair and service (parts cleaning, spilled fuel, oil, etc.), replacement of fluids, and outdoor equipment storage and parking (dripping engines) can all contaminate stormwater. Conducting the following activities in a controlled manner will reduce the potential for stormwater contamination:

- 1. General Maintenance and Repair**
- 2. Vehicle and Machine Repair**
- 3. Waste Handling/Disposal**

Related vehicle maintenance activities are covered under the following program headings in this manual: “Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning”, “Vehicle and Equipment Storage”, and “Vehicle Fueling”.

POLLUTION PREVENTION:

Pollution prevention measures have been considered and incorporated in the model procedures. Implementation of these measures may be more effective and reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more complicated or costly procedures. Possible pollution prevention measures for equipment maintenance and repair include:

- Review maintenance activities to verify that they minimize the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters. Keep accurate maintenance logs to evaluate materials removed and improvements made.
- Switch to non-toxic chemicals for maintenance when possible.
- Choose cleaning agents that can be recycled.
- Minimize use of solvents. Clean parts without using solvents whenever possible. Recycle used motor oil, diesel oil, and other vehicle fluids and parts whenever possible.
- Once per year, educate municipal staff on pollution prevention measures.

MODEL PROCEDURES:

1. General Maintenance and Repair

→ *Note: Permission must be obtained for any discharge of wash water to the sanitary sewer from the local sewerage agency.*

General Guidelines

- ✓ Review maintenance activities to verify that they minimize the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters. Keep accurate maintenance logs to evaluate materials removed and improvements made.
- ✓ Regularly inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks.
- ✓ Move activity indoors or cover repair area with a permanent roof if feasible.
- ✓ Minimize contact of stormwater with outside operations through berming and drainage routing.
- ✓ Place curbs around the immediate boundaries of the process equipment.
- ✓ Clean yard storm drain inlets regularly and stencil them.

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Good Housekeeping

- ✓ Avoid hosing down work areas. If work areas are washed and if discharge to the sanitary sewer is allowed, treat water with an appropriate treatment device (e.g. clarifier) before discharging. If discharge to the sanitary sewer is not permitted, pump water to a tank and dispose of properly.

- ✓ Collect leaking or dripping fluids in drip pans or containers. Fluids are easier to recycle or dispose of properly if kept separate.
- ✓ Keep a drip pan under the vehicle while you unclip hoses, unscrew filters, or remove other parts. Place a drip pan under any vehicle that might leak while you work on it to keep splatters or drips off the shop floor.
- ✓ Educate employees on proper handling and disposal of engine fluids.
- ✓ Promptly transfer used fluids to the proper waste or recycling drums. Don't leave full drip pans or other open containers lying around.
- ✓ Do not pour liquid waste to floor drains, sinks, outdoor storm drain inlets, or other storm drains or sewer connections.
- ✓ Post signs at sinks and stencil outdoor storm drain inlets.

2. Vehicle Repair

General Guidelines

Also see Waste Handling procedure sheet

- ✓ Perform vehicle fluid removal or changing inside or under cover where feasible to prevent the run-on of stormwater and the runoff of spills.
- ✓ Regularly inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks, and repair as needed.
- ✓ Use secondary containment, such as a drain pan or drop cloth, to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.
- ✓ Immediately drain all fluids from wrecked vehicles. Ensure that the drain pan or drip pan is large enough to contain drained fluids (e.g. larger pans are needed to contain antifreeze, which may gush from some vehicles).
- ✓ Promptly transfer used fluids to the proper waste or recycling drums. Don't leave full drip pans or other open containers lying around.
- ✓ Recycle used motor oil, diesel oil, and other vehicle fluids and parts whenever possible.
- ✓ Oil filters disposed of in trash cans or dumpsters can leak oil. Place the oil filter in a funnel over a waste oil recycling drum to drain excess oil before disposal. Oil filters can also be recycled. Ask your oil supplier or recycler about recycling oil filters.
- ✓ Store cracked batteries in a non-leaking secondary container and dispose of properly at recycling or household hazardous waste facilities.

Vehicle Leak and Spill Control

- ✓ Use absorbent materials on small spills. Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.
- ✓ Place a stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily

accessible.

- ✓ Sweep floor using dry absorbent material.

3. Machine Repair

Also see the Spill Prevention and Control procedure sheet

- ✓ Keep equipment clean; don't allow excessive build-up of oil or grease.
- ✓ Minimize use of solvents.
- ✓ Use secondary containment, such as a drain pan or drop cloth, to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.
- ✓ Perform major equipment repairs at the corporation yard, when practical.
- ✓ Following good housekeeping measures in *Vehicle Repair* section.

4. Waste Handling/Disposal

Waste Reduction

- ✓ Prevent spills and drips of solvents and cleansers to the shop floor.
- ✓ Do liquid cleaning at a centralized station so the solvents and residues stay in one area. Recycle liquid cleaners when feasible.
- ✓ Locate drip pans, drain boards, and drying racks to direct drips back into a solvent sink or fluid holding tank for reuse.

LIMITATIONS:

Space and time limitations may preclude all work being conducted indoors. It may not be possible to contain and clean up spills from vehicles/equipment brought on-site after working hours. Dry floor cleaning methods may not be sufficient for some spills – see spill prevention and control procedures sheet. Identification of engine leaks may require some use of solvents.

REFERENCES:

California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbooks. Municipal Best Management Practice Handbook. Prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, Larry Walker Associates, Uribe and Associates, Resources Planning Associates for Stormwater Quality Task Force. March 1993.

King County Stormwater Pollution Control Manual. Best Management Practices for Businesses. 1995. King County Surface Water Management. July. On-line: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/dss/spcm.htm>

Model Urban Runoff Program: A How-To Guide for Developing Urban Runoff Programs for Small Municipalities. Prepared by City of Monterey, City of Santa Cruz, California Coastal Commission, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Woodward-Clyde, Central Coast Regional Water Quality

Control Board. July. 1998.