

Vehicle/Equipment Operations



Issue Date: August 2018

VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT CLEANING

SCM-PP/GH-2



Description

Vehicle and equipment washing can introduce sediment, metals, hydrocarbons, trash, and nutrients to stormwater runoff. Use of control measures can help minimize the potential introduction of pollutants into the stormwater system and local waterways.

NYC MS4 SPDES Permit Requirement(s)

- IV.E. Construction Site Controls
- IV.G. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations and Facilities
- IV.H. Industrial/Commercial Sources

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Targeted Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle and equipment cleaning • Vehicle washing outside of commercial car wash facilities or municipal wash bay
Performance Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize pollutants entering storm sewers or waterways • Implement good housekeeping practices
Most Effective Controls <small>(more detail on page 2)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use properly designed commercial car wash facilities or municipal wash bays • Use designated washing area with sanitary drain

RELATED CONTROL MEASURES AND REGULATIONS

Related SCMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCM-PP/GH-19 • SCM-PP/GH-26
Other Regulatory Requirements*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 RCNY Chapter 19 Sections 19-01 to 19-04 • 40 CFR 122.26 (8) • NYCPC 1003.4.2.2

EFFECTIVENESS FOR TARGETED POLLUTANTS / IMPAIRMENTS

✓	Floatables
✓✓	Sediments
✓	Nitrogen
✓	Phosphorus
	Pathogens
✓	Oxygen Demand
	PCBs
✓✓	Metals
✓✓	Petroleum Products/PAHs

✓✓ = Good ✓ = Fair = Poor

CONTROL STRATEGIES

✓	Cover/Contain
✓	Clean Up
✓	Reduce/Minimize
✓	Product Substitutions
✓	Manage Runoff
✓	Capture/Treat/Dispose

✓ = Yes

*Note: RCNY: Rules of the City of New York; NYCRR: New York Codes, Rules & Regulations; NYCPC: New York City Plumbing Code
CFR: Code of Federal Regulations, EPCRA: Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act

Control Strategies/Suggested Practices

COVER/CONTAIN

- Use properly designed commercial car washes or provide on-site wash bays, whenever possible.
- When car wash / wash bay use is not possible, wash vehicles and equipment under cover where drains discharge to the sanitary sewer or combined sewer system.[†]
- If washing must be done outdoors, perform within a containment pad or place berms around vehicle/equipment being washed to capture the wash water for proper disposal on site or off site.[†]

CLEAN UP

- Inspect and clean wash bays and wash areas regularly, including sumps, catch basins and/or oil/water separators receiving wastewater.
- Before washing, dispose solid waste in trash containers placed in or near the wash area.

REDUCE/MINIMIZE

- Use minimal amounts of soap or detergent.
- Use dry cleaning methods, such as sweeping or cleaning with a dry towel, where possible.

PRODUCT SUBSTITUTION

- Use water-based, phosphate-free biodegradable/environmentally friendly detergent.

MANAGE RUNOFF

- Use hoses with automatic shutoff devices and spray nozzles to control flow and discourage generation of excess runoff.
- Wash single vehicle/piece of equipment in area where runoff will not enter receiving water body or storm drain.
- Small amounts of wash water without detergent and solvents may be allowed to infiltrate into the soil if a single vehicle/piece of equipment is washed.

CAPTURE/TREAT/DISPOSE

- Discharge equipment wash water to the sanitary or combined sewer system, a holding tank, process treatment system, or an enclosed recycling system. Dispose of wash water on site or off site.[†]
- Wash waters collected from degreasing operations should be treated through an oil water separator prior to discharge to a sanitary or combined sewer.[†]
- Perform regular inspections to identify maintenance and repair needs of installed pretreatment systems. Perform maintenance and repair in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Install monitoring and alarms for pretreatment systems, for notification when maintenance and repair should occur.

[†] Facility needs to ensure that all discharges to the sewer system comply with DEP regulations, as well as applicable DOB regulations.

References

1. NYSDEC SPDES Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity, Permit No. GP-0-17-004, March 2018
2. USEPA Potential Pollutants Likely Associated with Specific Municipal Facilities and Activities, November 2011
3. USEPA, Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations, National Menu of Best Management Practices, 2001
4. California Stormwater Quality Association, Best Management Practice Handbook – Municipal, January 2003
5. Western New York Stormwater Coalition, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Division of Environmental Compliance Services, Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: A Guidance Document of Best Management Practices and Inspection Checklists, April 2006
6. Municipal Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Program Assistance, NYSDEC May 2006
7. Environmental Compliance Guide for Auto Body Shops, NYSDEC December 2009

These control strategies and suggested practices are not all-inclusive and are intended to help identify practices that are efficient, effective and practicable in addressing potential impacts to stormwater.