

Mercury Awareness

Mercury pollution in stormwater runoff is a leading cause of waterway impairment. In high quantities, mercury can be harmful to humans. High levels of mercury are partly caused by the improper disposal of:

- Fluorescent lights (including CFLs)
- Electrical switches
- Thermometers
- Pressure and vacuum gauges

San Joaquin County residents can drop off these waste items for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility:

7850 R A Bridgeford Street
Stockton, CA 95206

City of Stockton Municipal Utilities
Department Stormwater Program:
209.937.8700

2500 Navy Drive
Stockton, CA 95206
www.stocktonca.gov/mud

San Joaquin County Stormwater Program:
866.755.4955

Managing Equipment Rental Facilities to Protect Our Waterways



Guide to Managing Equipment Rental Facilities to Protect Our Waterways

- Facilities that clean, store and rent equipment can generate pollutants, including heavy metals (copper, lead, nickel and zinc), hydrocarbons (oil and grease), toxic chemicals (solvents, chlorinated compounds, glycols), acids and alkalis when providing equipment servicing, washing, handling and storing materials, as well as fueling and storing services.

General

- Vacuum or sweep. Do not wash shop floors or adjacent outdoors areas. Never discharge wash water into storm drains, gutters or streets.
- Maintain your facility grounds. Move or cover activities and materials to prevent contact with stormwater.
- Inspect and clean leaks and drips routinely. Leaks are not cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.
- Label drains within your facility boundary to indicate whether they flow to an oil/water separator, directly to the sewer, or to a storm drain.

Equipment Servicing






- Perform major equipment repairs in a specified area or corporation yard.
- Keep equipment clean – do not allow excessive build-up of oil or grease.

- Move maintenance and repair activities indoors, if possible. If this is not possible, cover repair area with a permanent roof. Place curbs or berms around the immediate boundaries of the process equipment.
- Regularly inspect equipment for leaks. Collect leaking or dripping fluids in drip pans or containers. Fluids are easier to recycle or dispose of if kept separate.
- Always use secondary containment, such as a drain pan or drop cloth, to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.





Washing Equipment

- Use offsite commercial washing businesses, if feasible.
- If washing must occur onsite, designate an impervious area to be used solely for equipment washing. Clearly mark the equipment washing area. If the wash area is outside, cover the area when not in use.
- Collect all wash water from vehicle cleaning operations and discharge to a sanitary sewer through an approved sand/oil separator (call the City of Stockton, Environmental Control Office at 937-8740 for disposal approval). Do not discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer until the local sewer authority confirms whether pretreatment is required.
- Recycle or reuse liquid cleaners. Use non-toxic, biodegradable, phosphate free cleaners. Remember, even though these detergents are better, the wash water still needs to be discharged to the sanitary sewer, with approval.







Handling/Storing Materials

-  Label all hazardous materials according to regulations.
-  Keep lids on waste barrels and containers, store them indoors or under cover to reduce exposure to rain, and prevent spills from reaching sanitary sewer drains, storm drains, gutters and streets.
-  Do not pour liquid waste to floor drains, sinks, outdoor storm drain inlets, or other storm drains.
-  Promptly transfer used fluids to the proper waste or recycling drums. Do not leave full drip pans or other open containers lying around.
-  Store batteries in a secondary container, and dispose of properly at recycling or household hazardous waste facilities.





Storing Equipment

-  Place Drip Pans Or Absorbent Materials Under Equipment.
-  Sweep/vacuum all storage area at least once before the onset of the wet season.
-  Use dry cleaning methods to prevent the discharge of pollutants into the storm water drainage system.
-  Dispose of storage area sweeping debris and dirt properly.









-  If using water, block off the storm drain or contain runoff.
-  Collect wash water to pump to the sanitary sewer through an approved sand/oil separator or discharged to a pervious surface if water does not contain soap or other cleaning agent. Keep wash water from entering storm drains, gutters or streets.
-  If cleaning agents are used, select less toxic, biodegradable products.
-  Clean heavy oily spots with absorbent materials. Seal the storm drain to prevent runoff.
-  Appropriately dispose of spilled materials and absorbents.
-  Provide an adequate number of litter receptacles. Clean out and cover litter receptacles frequently to prevent spillage. Use a recycle bin.






Equipment Fueling

-  Maintain fuel dispensing areas using dry cleanup methods such as sweeping for removal of litter and debris, or use of rags and absorbents for leaks and spills. Never discharge wash water from fueling areas into storm drains, gutters, streets or sanitary sewers.
-  Clean leaks and drips immediately. Leaks are not cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and properly disposed.
-  Install vapor recovery nozzles to help control drips as well as air pollution.
-  Use secondary containment such as curbs or berms when transferring fuel from the tank truck to the fuel tank.

Spill Control

-  Develop and maintain a spill response plan.
-  Place an adequate stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily available.
-  Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.
-  Clean leaks, drips, and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
-  Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.
-  Keep the spill from entering streets gutters or storm drains.

Employee Training

-  Train employees on these best management practices.
-  Train staff on the proper maintenance of your facility.
-  Provide training to employees on proper spill containment and cleanup procedures.
-  Establish a regular training schedule, train all new hires and conduct annual refresher trainings.
-  Use a training log or similar method to document training.

What goes into storm drains flows directly into our rivers, creeks, sloughs and the Delta.

Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!

