



City of East Grand Forks

600 DeMers Ave · P.O. Box 373 · East Grand Forks, MN 56721
218-773-2483 · 218-773-9728 fax www.egf.mn

Public Works Department · 1001 2nd St NE · East Grand Forks, MN 56721

STORMWATER BMPs –VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASHING

AFFECTED FACILITIES

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) apply at all municipal facilities where washing, power washing, or steam cleaning is performed on vehicles or equipment.

BACKGROUND

Wastewater from vehicle or equipment cleaning performed outdoors can contribute toxic hydrocarbons and other organic compounds, oils and greases, nutrients, phosphates, heavy metals and suspended solids to storm water. These BMPs are designed to prevent or reduce the discharge of these pollutants to stormwater.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- If possible, use off-site commercial car washing facilities.
- Wash vehicles and equipment indoors where the wastewater drains to a sanitary sewer.
- If power washing without detergents or soaps, wastewater may only drain to a sanitary sewer system, vegetated areas or areas where it can evaporate. Do not let wastewater enter storm drains.
- If detergents must be used during pressure washing, use phosphate-free, biodegradable detergents and always collect the wastewater so it can be sent to the sanitary sewer.
- If washing small portable equipment like lawn mowers and where no soaps or detergents are used (plain water only), mowers or equipment may be washed on flat grassy areas that are not near surface water bodies or storm drain inlets. Wastes generated by cleaning such as grass clippings should be collected and disposed of by composting or in the trash.
- If vehicles or equipment are cleaned in the field (such as brushing off mowing equipment), collect the wastes and dispose of properly.
- Do not store solvents or degreasers in the wash area.
- Keep all wash areas neat and orderly.

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION REQUIREMENTS

- When possible, design vehicle and equipment washing facilities indoors.
- Where approved, plumb wash area floor drains to the sanitary sewer with a sump and/or oil/water separator in-line to remove sediments and oils or to a holding tank.

- Design vehicle or equipment wash areas with curbs, berms, dikes, channels, trench drains, or sloping sufficient to contain all wastewater. Make sure the berms extend out at least four feet from the outermost edge of the equipment that will be washed there.
- Construct a cover or shelter over washing areas to avoid exposure to storm water.
- Consider installing wastewater filtering and water recycling systems.
- Consider installing shut-off valves in discharge plumbing. Shut-off valves can be closed when washing is not being performed so that spills or leaks are captured before discharge.

REQUIRED TRAINING

- Train all current employees on these BMPs, the Spill Clean-up BMP and the importance of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) annually.
- Train all new hires and job transferees on these BMPs, the Spill Clean-up BMP and the importance of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) before they are assigned to their new duties.
- All contracts must stipulate that contracted employees are trained in these BMPs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Household Hazardous Waste can be disposed of at:

Polk County Environmental Services Transfer Station

320 Ingersoll Ave

Crookston, MN 56716

Monday - 7:00am to 7:00pm

Tuesday through Friday - 7:00am to 5:30pm

Used motor oil and other waste automotive fluids can be disposed of at:

Public Works Department

1001 Second St. N.E.

East Grand Forks, MN 56721

(218) 773-1313

To report an Illicit Discharge, clogged sewer or for answers to questions regarding these stormwater BMPs please contact:

Public Works Stormwater/Wastewater Department

1001 Second St. N.E.

East Grand Forks, MN 56721

(218) 773-1313