

# Best Management Practices For Heavy Equipment Yards

The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff support companies like yours in preventing storm water pollution. The fact that you're reading this fact sheet probably means you have already decided to take steps to keep our water safe and healthy. Water flowing into storm drains travels directly to local creeks and then to San Francisco Bay. It does not go to a water treatment plant first. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) can reduce or eliminate potential discharges of pollutants from heavy equipment yards.

This fact sheet identifies typical activities conducted at equipment rental yards and the associated pollutant discharges. Structural and

operational Best Management Practices (BMPs) which can prevent these illicit discharges are also described. This fact sheet can help you prepare for a municipal inspection as the activities and BMPs listed herein are integral to these inspections. This fact sheet may also be used to train your employees. The Clean Water Program recommends distributing copies of this fact sheet to your employees and/or posting a copy in a prominent place at your facility.

**Keep all wash waters, wastes materials, and sediments OUT of the storm drains.**

## Best Management Practices Checklists

Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) can reduce or eliminate discharges of pollutants from heavy equipment yards and other similar facilities to the stormwater drainage system.

### Vehicle Tracking & Dust Control

- ✓ Make sure vehicles and equipment leaving your facility do not track dirt or building materials onto the street.
- ✓ Stabilize all entrances and exits with aggregate, rumble plates or other sediment controls to reduce site tracking.
- ✓ Use a street sweeper or manual methods to clean visible tracking, loose material, sand and gravel from paved roads.



### General

- ✓ Store materials (e.g. solvents & oil) and wastes (e.g. spent solvents & waste oil) indoors or under a covered and contained area.
- ✓ Routinely sweep facility grounds. Frequently inspect areas exposed to rain. Clean up leaks and drips. Sweep up used absorbent and dispose of properly.
- ✓ Never discharge waste or other liquids from servicing vehicles (e.g., antifreeze, waste oil, brake fluid) directly to a sanitary sewer, storm drain or the surrounding area.
- ✓ Label drains within your facility to indicate whether the drain flows to the sanitary sewer or to a storm drain.
- ✓ Be sure that drains inside your buildings and in wash areas are connected to the sanitary sewer.

### Employee Training

- ✓ Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training and document all training sessions.
- ✓ Train employees on the practices identified within this fact sheet and your spill control plan. Post this fact sheet in a prominent area within your facility.

### Housekeeping

- ✓ Use manual cleaning methods such as sweeping, vacuuming, or mopping to clean facility surfaces instead of methods using water.
- ✓ If water is used to clean facility surfaces, temporarily block off nearby storm drains on site to contain and collect runoff and dispose of properly in sanitary sewer.
- ✓ If wash water contains solvents or other cleaning agents, it may be classified as hazardous waste and not be able to be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

### Vehicle Fueling

- ✓ Post signs that discourage topping of fuel tanks.
- ✓ Prevent run on and run off from fueling areas using berms, grading, perimeter drains, overhead coverage, and/or sumps.
- ✓ Pave fueling area with concrete rather than asphalt.
- ✓ Install fuel pump automatic shut-off at each pump.

### Vehicle & Equipment Servicing

- ✓ Conduct all repair activities indoors or under a covered and contained area.
- ✓ Always use a drip pan under vehicles while unclipping hoses, unscrewing filters, or removing other parts.
- ✓ Frequently inspect vehicles for leaks and perform necessary repairs.
- ✓ Designate areas for vehicles awaiting maintenance.
- ✓ Place drip pans under these vehicles if leaks are observed.
- ✓ Never discharge waste from vehicle repair activities (e.g., antifreeze, used oil, brake fluid) directly to a sanitary sewer inlet, storm drain or the area surrounding it.
- ✓ Use self-contained sinks and tanks when working with solvents. Keep sinks covered when not in use.

### Vehicle Washing

- ✓ Use off site commercial car wash, if feasible.
- ✓ Or, designate an impervious area to be used solely for vehicle washing. Collect and dispose all of the wash water onsite properly.
- ✓ Or, collect water from vehicle washing and discharge to a sanitary sewer through an approved on site vehicle wash rack. Contact the appropriate local wastewater treatment authority to obtain approval.
- ✓ Use a hose nozzle or pressure washer that automatically turns off when unattended to reduce the volume of water generated when washing vehicles.



### Outdoor Storage of Material

- ✓ Enclose or cover materials and wastes to reduce exposure to rain at all times.
- ✓ Secure and cover all building material that pose a potential impact to storm water quality.
- ✓ Protect erodible stockpiles from stormwater run on.
- ✓ Cover, install sediment control, or implement other best management practices for stockpiles.
- ✓ Store stockpiles off paved surfaces and in such a way to prevent storm water contact with material or run on and run off from material.
- ✓ Keep lids closed on all outdoor containers including dumpsters at all times.
- ✓ Store chemical containers under cover and in proper secondary containers that will prevent spills.



### Control of Erosion and Discharge of Sediment:

- ✓ Selection and implementation of BMPs should be based on the pollution risks associated with each facility.
- ✓ Facility must control erosion, and discharge of sediment from property at all times.
- ✓ Run off from the facility should be free of excessive sediment and other constituents. Installation of perimeter BMPs to reduce the potential should be installed at facilities that have unpaved areas.
- ✓ Storm drain inlets on facilities must be protected at all times. Facilities that have storm drain inlets in unpaved area should use a combination of BMP's to protect those inlets.
- ✓ Frequent routine inspections of perimeter BMP's and storm drain inlets must be performed at each facility.
- ✓ Damaged or impacted BMP's must be repaired within 10 days from when they are first observed/reported. Records of these routine inspections and observations should be recorded on a facility log. Log will need to be kept onsite and made available upon request by inspectors.

For more information please contact



Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay  
cleanwaterprogram.org

### Sanitary Sewer vs. Storm Drains

The sanitary sewer system collects and treats wastewater from homes and businesses before discharging into the San Francisco Bay.

The stormwater conveyance system collects rainwater from urban areas. The storm water that enters the storm drain system which **ARE NOT** treated prior to flowing into local waterways. Consequently, pollutants entering the storm drain inlets flow directly into the bay. This impacts local wildlife and could impact public health.

### Spill Control & Clean Up

- ✓ Develop and maintain a spill response plan in conformance with the requirements of your Business Emergency Response Plan or your Hazardous Waste Generator Contingency Plan if applicable.
- ✓ Place an adequate supply of spill cleanup materials where they can be easily accessed throughout your facility.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Clean up spills promptly. Contain spills so that they do not leave your property or enter a storm drain inlet.
- ✓ Dispose of clean-up materials properly.
- ✓ Report spills that pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment to 911 or visit <http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org/report-a-spill.html>.



### Waste Handling

- ✓ Label, inspect and manage all hazardous wastes according to laws and regulations.
- ✓ Wastes must be stored within enclosed covered containers unless you are actively adding to or removing waste from the container.
- ✓ Do not leave drip pans or other open containers outdoors.
- ✓ Store hazardous waste liquids (i.e., antifreeze, solvent, oil) within secondary containment.
- ✓ Label and track the recycling and disposal of all waste material properly (i.e., used oil, spent solvents, batteries).

| Waste Management and Disposal |                                   |   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Activity                      | Pollutant                         | Disposal Option                                 |
| Surface Cleaning              | Wash Water                        | Sanitary Sewer                                  |
| Vehicle and Equipment Washing | Wash water                        | Sanitary Sewer (with proper treatment in place) |
|                               | Sludge (sand oil water separator) | Hazardous waste hauler                          |
|                               | Spent solvents                    | Hazardous waste hauler                          |
| Vehicle and Equipment Repair  | Tires                             | Tire Hauler                                     |
|                               | Batteries                         | Battery Recycler                                |
|                               | Waste Oils                        | Oil Recycler                                    |
|                               | Antifreeze                        | Hazardous waste hauler                          |
|                               | Spent fluids (e.g. used oil)      | Hazardous waste hauler                          |

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