

## Cleaning or Washing of Tools and Equipment

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This activity applies to you if you clean tools, small power equipment such as lawn mowers and weedwackers, and manufacturing equipment such as saws, grinders, screens, and other processing devices outside of buildings. Uncontrolled outdoor washing can contribute toxic hydrocarbons and other organic compounds, oils and greases, nutrients, metals, abnormal pH, and suspended solids to stormwater runoff.

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

**The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices, are required if you are engaged in cleaning or washing of tools and small power and manufacturing equipment:**

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Tool and equipment wash water is considered process water, and must discharge to the sanitary sewer, a holding tank, or a process treatment system, regardless of the washing method used.



See BMP Info Sheet 2 in Chapter 5 for information on disposal options.

You are encouraged to recycle your wash water with an enclosed loop system or use self-contained parts washers. There are several products commercially available that enable recycling and containing of wash water and cleaning solvents.

If you cannot connect discharges to a sanitary sewer, process treatment system, or holding tank you must contact the Department of Ecology and go through the industrial wastewater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process.

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For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.