

Interior Washing Operations (Including Mobile Contractors)

This activity applies to you if you are engaged in washing carpets, floors, upholstery, and other interior items. This activity is performed by both mobile contractors and on-site staff. The typical washing process includes the use of machines that scrub and suck dirt and other particles with a wash water solution into a portable containment device with limited capacity. Stormwater and surface waters or groundwater may become contaminated if collected wash water is disposed outdoors. Wastewater from washing operations that is dumped into storm drains, on streets, in drainage ditches, and in other outdoor locations can contaminate water bodies with nutrients, suspended solids, and chemicals used in the cleaning process.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required if you engage in interior washing activities:

1

Do not dispose of any wastewater from this activity outdoors or to the storm drainage system. This point must be clear to employees. Wastewater from mobile fleet washing operations may be permitted for sanitary sewer disposal if it does not contain high concentrations of toxic materials. Contact the local sewer authority and the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Industrial Waste Section for more information at 206-263-3000. Wash water can also be recycled.



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

2

Do not dispose of sludges that are left in tanks, containers, or trucks outdoors or to a ditch or drain connected to the storm drainage system. Sludges must be disposed of properly.



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

Additional BMPs

The following BMPs are optional, unless the above minimum required BMPs do not provide adequate source control.



1 Limit the amount of water used in interior washing operations. This limits the amount of wastewater you need to worry about properly disposing of.



2 Recycle wash water.

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.