

Potable Water Line Flushing or Tank Maintenance

Line flushing and tank maintenance typically uses chemicals such as chlorine to disinfect drinking water systems. These chemicals are highly toxic to aquatic organisms. Line flushing and tank maintenance also creates suspended solids and metals that can degrade receiving waters.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices, are required if you perform potable water line flushing or tank maintenance operations:

1

When flushing, filter water through sediment traps. If super chlorination is part of flushing, the water must be discharged to the sanitary sewer (with applicable permits) or if a sanitary sewer is not available, the water must be collected and disposed of appropriately. Water cannot be discharged directly to stormwater systems unless treated and water quality standards are met. Discharging treated water to stormwater systems requires approval from the Washington State Department of Ecology. In some cases, flushing water can be infiltrated in well-vegetated areas.

2

Tank cleaning water must go to the sanitary sewer or be infiltrated into the ground. No erosive flows can occur and water must not cross property lines. If tanks are simply drained, infiltration is an acceptable BMP.

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.