

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT CLEANING WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

General Information

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is currently issuing General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Wastewater Discharge Permits for facilities involved in vehicle and equipment cleaning. The general DEQ permit encourages reuse or disposal to the sanitary sewer system rather than discharge to the stormwater system.

Facilities desiring to discharge vehicle or equipment cleaning wastewater to the sanitary sewer system must also meet certain requirements to prevent the discharge of substances that may not be compatible with the sanitary sewer system. Federal, State, and local laws also prohibit the discharge of various substances to the sanitary sewer system.

Prohibited Substances:

Substances limited or restricted from discharged to the sanitary sewer system include oil, grease, toxic pollutants, Flammable or explosive substances, and waste with corrosive properties that can cause damage or hazard to structures, equipment, or personnel of the sewer system. The discharge of storm drainage and surface waters is also prohibited.

Sanitary Sewer System General Discharge Permit:

To allow discharge to the sanitary sewer system of wastewater from vehicle and equipment washing facilities, the wastewater treatment plant (Regional Water Reclamation Facility) will be issuing General Discharge Permits of its own. The permits will contain prohibitions and limitations regarding the items listed above, but for the most part, will be less restrictive than the DEQ general permits. The intent of the permit is to restrict the discharge of substances that are not amendable to the treatment processes or that might cause interference with the operation of the treatment plant.

Additional Information:

Additional information regarding discharge to the sanitary sewer system may be obtained by calling the Regional Water Reclamation Facility at (541) 774-2750.

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WASTEWATER DISCHARGE
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following substances are prohibited from discharge to the sanitary sewer system:

- Storm drainage, surface drainage, subsurface drainage, groundwater, roof water, steam condensation, or uncontaminated water used for refrigeration or cooling purposes.

Note: A permanent cover over the immediate wash area and the directing of non-wash drainage away from the washing area is required.

- Solid or viscous substances, which may cause obstruction to the flow in a sewer or other interference with the operation of the wastewater treatment facilities.
- Any fat, oils or greases, including but not limited to, petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin, in an amount that will cause interference or pass through.

Note: an appropriate oil, grease, and sedimentation trap is required. All traps shall be of a type and capacity approved by the Regional Water Reclamation Division Superintendent and shall be located as to be readily accessible for cleaning and inspection. Traps also shall be properly operated and maintained.

- Any flammable or explosive liquid, solids, or gas, which may, by themselves or by interaction with other substances, create a fire or explosion hazard in the sewer system.
- Any wastes, wastewaters, or substances having a pH less than 5.5 or more than 10.0 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, or personnel of the sewer system.
- Any wastewater containing toxic pollutants in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other pollutants, to injure or interfere with any wastewater treatment process; to interfere with use of, or disposal of treatment plant sludge; to constitute a hazard to humans or animals; to create a toxic effect in the receiving waters of the sewer system; to exceed the limitation set forth in a National Categorical Pretreatment Standard; or to exceed the local limit established by the Regional Water Reclamation Division Superintendent.
- Any amount of heat, which, will inhibit biological activity at the Regional Water Reclamation Facility resulting in interference. Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than one hundred and fifty (150°) degrees Fahrenheit, sixty-five (65°) degrees Celsius.

- Any noxious or malodorous liquids, gases or solids, which either singly or by interaction with other wastes, which are sufficient to prevent entry into the sewers for maintenance repair. Includes any pollutant which results in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes within the sewer system in a quantity that may cause acute worker health and safety problems.
- Any water or wastes containing sludge from tank bottom contents, industrial sump bottom contents, grease or oil trap wastes or sludge, plating or metal finishing wastes and sludge, digested sewage sludge, or the contents from chemical toilets, toilet vault wastes, or holding tanks. Discharge of any trucked or hauled pollutant is also prohibited.
- The contents from any tanker or holding tank designed to transport liquid. No discharge of liquid product to the sanitary sewer system is allowed. The liquid product should be removed at the receiving station or by the manufacturer.

For cleaning trailers other than tankers, all liquid residual shall first be absorbed or removed and any dry product remaining in the trailer shall be removed. The trailer should be swept clean of all material prior to washing.

Note: The trailer wash waters may be discharged to permitted vehicle and equipment-cleaning facilities in accordance with the requirement contained in their permits.

- Any waters or wastes containing substances that is not amendable to treatment, or reduction by the sewage treatment processes employed.
- Any materials identified as hazardous waste according to 40 CFR Part 261.
- Facilities, equipment, materials, etc., to prevent accidental discharge of prohibited materials shall be provided and maintained.

Note: The storage of prohibited materials shall be in areas that do not readily drain to the sanitary sewer system.

- The Water Reclamation Division Superintendent is to be notified immediately of all discharges that could cause problems to the treatment system including any slug loads or spills.
- An initial compliance report may be required. The report shall state whether applicable pretreatment standards and requirements are being met on a consistent basis and if not, what additional operations, maintenance and/or pretreatment is necessary to bring the discharge into compliance with the requirements.

The statement must be signed by an authorized representative and certified by a qualified professional engineer.

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT CLEANING

Facilities Standards for Discharge To the Sanitary Sewer System

All vehicle and equipment cleaning facilities that discharge to the sanitary sewer system must comply with the following standards for the design and construction of the washing facilities:

Submittal of Plans:

All plans and details for vehicle and equipment cleaning facilities shall be designed, stamped and signed by an engineer licensed to practice in the State of Oregon and submitted to the appropriate regional agency. Plans must show, as a minimum, adequate design, with slopes and elevations, as well as details of the containment area. Both the sanitary sewers and the storm drain in the immediate vicinity of the washing facilities shall be shown.

Containment:

A containment area shall be constructed around the washing facility drainage area to ensure that all wash water is contained and discharged to the sanitary sewer, and to prevent surrounding stormwater from entering the drain. The containment shall consist of a minimum 3-inch berm that completely surrounds the drainage area. The surface inside the containment area shall be of an adequate slope, and the drain and grate of the adequate size, to prevent wash water accumulation and overflow out of the containment area under the highest wash water flow conditions. The surface around the wash facility shall be sloped away from the containment area to prevent accumulation and overflow of outside waters into the containment area.

Cover:

To prevent entrance of rainfall into the containment area, a permanent waterproof cover is required that extends a minimum of 2 feet in all directions beyond the containment area. In cases where a wall is constructed down to the ground surface that will prevent the entrance of rainfall, the requirement for an overhang does not apply.

Oil and Grease Separator:

An approved oil and grease separator is required for all vehicle and equipment washing facilities. The separator shall be baffled with a minimum of 2 chambers, shall have a flow rate capacity sufficient to adequately service the maximum anticipated flow. Both chambers of the separator shall provide sedimentation, oil/grease removal, and inspection access. All piping from the containment area to the sewer main shall be a minimum of 4 inches inside diameter, unless hydraulic conditions require a larger pipe. A readily accessible clean out shall be provided immediately downstream of the separator to allow easy access for sampling. A proposed site-specific maintenance schedule shall also be submitted with the plans.

Pick Up The Phone

City of Medford Resources

→	Business License	774-2025
→	Stormwater Information	774-2600
→	Stormwater Rate/Billing Information	774-2100
→	Pollution Complaints/Stormwater Discharge Violations	774-2600
→	Stormwater System Maintenance	774-2600
→	Disposal to the Wastewater Collection System	774-2750

Hazardous Waste/Disposal Alternatives

- *Emergency Spills:*
City of Medford 9-1-1
- *Hazardous Waste:*
See the Telephone Yellow Pages
- *Recycling Services:*
See the Telephone Yellow Pages
- *Discharge Permits:*
Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality 776-6010/X246
Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant 774-2750
- *Storage Considerations:*
City of Medford Fire Marshall's Office 774-2318
- *Technical Assistance:*
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 776-6010X246