

## PROGRAM 3 – GENERAL AUTOMOTIVE ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 3.3 – VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT WASH FACILITIES

#### Description

Reduce the discharge of pollutants from vehicle washing to protect storm drains and watercourses. Recycle or properly treat all wash water. Facilities need to be properly designed to meet aquifer protection program requirements and be permitted by ADEQ.

#### Applications and Limitations

Pollutants such as detergents and dirty wash water must be prevented from directly discharging to watercourses and storm drains. Discharges to sanitary sewers require a pre-treatment permit from the affected municipality.

#### Do

- Wash equipment only in designated, contained areas with impervious surfaces or off-site at commercial facilities.
- Discharge into a permitted sanitary sewer, recycle system, or other similarly approved discharge system.
- Use an oil/water separator or similar treatment system to remove oil, grease, and solids when discharging to the sanitary sewer. Use of oil/water separators may have special discharge requirements.
- Use phosphate-free biodegradable soaps and detergents.
- Store soaps/detergents in contained area.
- Use a spray nozzle, pressure washer, or rinse bucket to conserve water and minimize discharge water.
- Use as little water as possible to avoid having to install erosion and sediment controls for the wash area.
- Cover wash slabs to prevent precipitation from entering the wash water facility.



#### Don't

- Permit steam cleaning on-site. Steam cleaning can generate significant pollutant concentrations.
- Discharge into the storm drainage system, septic systems, watercourses, or groundwater.

#### Maintain

- Drains to prevent them from becoming clogged with sand, grit, or other materials.



- On-site wash facilities to prevent the accumulation of trash and debris.
- Oil/water separator. Schedule regular servicing intervals and maintain associated records.

**Inspect**

- Washing area and all water treatment equipment.
- Soap/detergent containers and storage areas for leaks/spills.