



Photo Credit: Geoff Brosseau

Design Objectives

- Maximize Infiltration
 - Provide Retention
 - Slow Runoff
 - Minimize Impervious Land Coverage
 - Prohibit Dumping of Improper Materials
- Contain Pollutants
- Collect and Convey

Description

Vehicle washing, equipment washing, and steam cleaning may contribute high concentrations of metals, oil and grease, solvents, phosphates, and suspended solids to wash waters that drain to stormwater conveyance systems.

Approach

Project plans should include appropriately designed area(s) for washing-steam cleaning of vehicles and equipment. Depending on the size and other parameters of the wastewater facility, wash water may be conveyed to a sewer, an infiltration system, recycling system or other alternative. Pretreatment may be required for conveyance to a sanitary sewer.

Suitable Applications

Appropriate applications include commercial developments, restaurants, retail gasoline outlets, automotive repair shops and others.

Design Considerations

Design requirements for vehicle maintenance are governed by Building and Fire Codes, and by current local agency ordinances, and zoning requirements. Design criteria described in this fact sheet are meant to enhance and be consistent with these code requirements.

Designing New Installations

Areas for washing/steam cleaning should incorporate one of the following features:

- Be self-contained and/or covered with a roof or overhang
- Be equipped with a clarifier or other pretreatment facility
- Have a proper connection to a sanitary sewer



- Include other features which are comparable and equally effective

CAR WASH AREAS - Some jurisdictions' stormwater management plans include vehicle-cleaning area source control design requirements for community car wash racks in complexes with a large number of dwelling units. In these cases, wash water from the areas may be directed to the sanitary sewer, to an engineered infiltration system, or to an equally effective alternative. Pre-treatment may also be required.

Depending on the jurisdiction, developers may be directed to divert surface water runoff away from the exposed area around the wash pad (parking lot, storage areas), and wash pad itself to alternatives other than the sanitary sewer. Roofing may be required for exposed wash pads.

It is generally advisable to cover areas used for regular washing of vehicles, trucks, or equipment, surround them with a perimeter berm, and clearly mark them as a designated washing area. Sumps or drain lines can be installed to collect wash water, which may be treated for reuse or recycling, or for discharge to the sanitary sewer. Jurisdictions may require some form of pretreatment, such as a trap, for these areas.

Redeveloping Existing Installations

Various jurisdictional stormwater management and mitigation plans (SUSMP, WQMP, etc.) define "redevelopment" in terms of amounts of additional impervious area, increases in gross floor area and/or exterior construction, and land disturbing activities with structural or impervious surfaces. The definition of "redevelopment" must be consulted to determine whether or not the requirements for new development apply to areas intended for redevelopment.

Additional Information

Maintenance Considerations

Stormwater and non-stormwater will accumulate in containment areas and sumps with impervious surfaces. Contaminated accumulated water must be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and cannot be discharged directly to the storm drain or sanitary sewer system without the appropriate permit.

Other Resources

A Manual for the Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP), Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, May 2002.

Model Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) for San Diego County, Port of San Diego, and Cities in San Diego County, February 14, 2002.

Model Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) for County of Orange, Orange County Flood Control District, and the Incorporated Cities of Orange County, Draft February 2003.

Ventura Countywide Technical Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Control Measures, July 2002.