



Motor Trade Association of SA Environmental Fact Sheet

PARTS WASHERS

Parts washers

Parts washers are a potential source of pollution if not managed correctly, particularly parts washers using solvent.

Non-solvent based parts washers are an alternative eliminating air pollution from solvent based parts washers.

Solvents are classified as a volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and lead to photochemical smog. Smog can irritate peoples eyes and respiratory tracts. People with asthma and respiratory problems are particularly vulnerable.

When solvents vaporise they become strong greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming.

If using a solvent parts washer:

- Engage an EPA licenced waste contractor to remove liquid wastes from the premises
- Use a recycling system that filters and reuses the solvent until it needs to be replaced
- Make sure all staff refer to the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for correct handling and disposal procedures
- Do not dispose of any liquid wastes from the parts washer to the oil separation systems, sewerage, soak wells or storm water drains

Alternative parts washers

Non solvent based parts washers are available on the market.

Parts washers using a non solvent chemical can still be toxic or hazardous to workers or the environment.

Always check your MSDS for the correct handling and disposal methods regardless of the chemicals used.

Recycle parts washer chemicals

Recycling parts washer chemicals saves money on purchase and disposal costs.

To extend the life of the chemical use an appropriate filter systems or a combination of oil skimmers and centrifuges, to remove contaminants such as oil and sediment.

Any questions call the MTA

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