



Parts Washing

Parts washing includes everything from washing down small parts with water to degreasing and washing vehicles prior to painting. Whether washing parts, engines or large components, washing must be done in an area where runoff is contained.

Wash Water - Parts may be cleaned in steam by hot or cold water, in a high pressure wash or in a chemical bath. In all cases, whenever oil or grease is removed, any wash water must be treated as Prescribed Industrial Waste.

Solvent Wash - All petroleum, solvent and chemical wash wastes and sludge must be treated as Prescribed Industrial Waste. These wash wastes must not enter stormwater, and therefore need to be disposed of as Prescribed Industrial Waste.

As noted, both wash water and solvent wash are classified as Prescribed Industrial Waste, and should therefore be disposed of in one of the following ways:

1. Directed to the sewer according to your Trade Waste Agreement with your local water authority,
2. Directed to a sump, where it can be collected by an EPA contractor,
3. Stored in a drum or tank before transporting it to a licensed liquid recycling or treatment facility.

Dry Cleaning - As parts cleaning can produce large amounts of contaminated water and solvent, dry cleaning methods and ultra sonic processes should always be used before a solvent wash is applied.

Please Note

Petroleum, solvent and chemical suppliers can provide you with information regarding how to properly handle and dispose of these waste materials.

Managing Cleaning Processes

- Review all processes to identify cleaning methods.
- Use dry cleaning methods, like shot blasting, rumbling, air blasting or scraping wherever possible.
- Minimise the use of water, solvents, chemicals and petroleum in all cleaning processes.
- Only use small amounts of solvents, chemicals and petroleum in a properly constructed container.

Environmental Guidelines



- Store used products for parts washing in an undercover, sealed floor and designated bunded waste storage area.
- Clearly identify the contents of all drums and containers used to hold parts washing liquid (Prescribed Industrial Waste).
- Appoint an EPA approved contractor to remove and dispose of your Prescribed Industrial Wastes.
- Keep all the invoices your waste contractors give you for 3 - 5 years.
- Keep records documenting the details of the permits and approvals your waste contractors have.
- Correctly fill out and keep Waste Transport Certificates for the transport of your Prescribed Industrial Waste for at least 24 months.

Important Link

- Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines *Motor Vehicle Repair and Service Premises* found at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/industrial-waste-guidelines.asp> under *6.4 Additional Guidance*.

Further Information



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Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.