

## Cleaning or Washing of Tools and Equipment

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This activity applies if you clean all types of tools and equipment. This includes landscaping equipment such as lawn mowers and weed whackers; tools used at auto and other equipment repair shops; and, manufacturing equipment such as saws, grinders and screens. Uncontrolled outdoor washing can contribute toxic hydrocarbons and other organic compounds, oils and greases, nutrients, metals, harmful pH, and suspended solids to stormwater runoff.

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

**The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices, are required if you are engaged in cleaning or washing of tools and small power and manufacturing equipment:**

1

Tool and equipment wash water is considered process water, and must discharge to the sanitary sewer, a holding tank, or a process treatment system, regardless of the washing method used.



See BMP Info Sheet 2 in Chapter 5 for information on disposal options.

You are encouraged to recycle your wash water with an enclosed loop system or use self-contained parts washers. Numerous products are commercially available that recycle and contain wash water and cleaning solvents.

If you cannot connect discharges to a sanitary sewer, process treatment system, or holding tank you must contact the Washington State Department of Ecology and go through the Individual Wastewater Discharge permit process.

2

Lawnmowers may be rinsed with water only on a lawn or similar area as long as the rinsed-off grass clippings will not be washed to the storm drain system or surface waters when it rains. Washwater from oily or similarly contaminated lawn maintenance equipment is not allowed to flow to or discharge to any stormwater system or surface water.

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For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.