

Wheel Wash and Tire Bath Operations

If a site is not paved (e.g. gravel or compacted dirt), sediment and mud on vehicle tires can be transported onto the adjacent paved roads. If track out cannot be controlled by constructing a typical rocked construction entrance, a wheel wash system may need to be installed. See Appendix D, Chapter D.3.4.3 of the King County Surface Water Design Manual for a more detailed description of wheel wash operation requirements.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices, are required if are install a wheel wash or tire bath system to control sediment tracking onto adjacent roads:

- 1 The wheel wash area must be paved.
- 2 The water level in the wheel wash must be a minimum of 12 inches deep.
- 3 Spray nozzles may be needed in muddy conditions.
- 4 Wheel wash systems should be designed with a small grade change, e.g. 6 to 12 inches for a 10 foot wide ponding area, to allow sediment to collect in the low side of the ponding area to prevent re-suspension of solids.
- 5 Required Routine Maintenance:
 - A drain pipe with a 2 to 3 foot riser should be installed on the low side of the ponding area to allow for cleaning and refilling.

- The wheel wash should start out with fresh water each day.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS

1

Closed loop wheel wash systems are preferred with the wastewater discharged to a sanitary sewer.

2

Polymers for flocculation may be used in closed loop systems that discharge to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local sewer district and/or the King County Industrial Waste Program for authorization.

Note: See Appendix D of the Surface Water Design Manual for additional information on wheel wash systems.

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.