

A-11: Cleaning or Washing of Tools and Equipment

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to the cleaning of tools and equipment such as lawn mowers, edgers and grass trimmers, tools used at equipment repair shops, and manufacturing equipment such as saws, grinders, and screens.

Potential pollutants include but are not limited to hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.

BMPs are required by King County Water Quality Code (KCC 9.12). If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs

- Discharge tool and equipment wash water to the sanitary sewer (with approval from the sewer authority) or a holding tank for offsite disposal. The discharge of wash water to the stormwater drain system is not allowed without treatment and an Individual Wastewater Discharge permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology.
- Rinse lawnmowers with water only on a lawn or similar area where grass clippings will not get into the stormwater drainage system or surface waters when it rains.
- Oily, soapy, or otherwise dirty water is not allowed to discharge to any stormwater drainage system or surface water.

Supplemental BMPs

- 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.

Additional Information

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
 - [A-13: Vehicle Washing and Steam Cleaning](#)
 - [A-18: Vehicle and Equipment Repair and Maintenance](#)
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
 - [Containment](#)
 - [Disposal](#)
 - [Oil/Water Separator](#)
 - [Water Quality Treatment BMP](#)
- Washington State Department of Ecology's Vehicle and Equipment Washwater Discharges/Best Management Practices Manual
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/95056.html>

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.