

AIRCRAFT, VEHICLE, & EQUIPMENT WASHING & DEGREASING ACTIVITIES BMP FACTSHEET 6

Rev. 04/2023



DESCRIPTION

Many facilities on Ft. Belvoir operate aircraft, vehicles and other types of equipment that must be routinely washed and degreased to extend the life of the machinery and as a means of pollution prevention. Well-maintained vehicles and machinery reduce the potential for leaks and spills of oils and chemical fluids. The goal of establishing procedures for washing and degreasing aircraft, vehicles and equipment is to make sure the byproducts of these activities do **not** come into contact with stormwater and to prevent unnecessary and unlawful discharges of harmful pollutants into our waterways.

Targeted Pollutants

Sediment	X
Nutrients	
Trash	
Metals	X
Bacteria	
Oil & Grease	X
Chemicals	
Salt	X

Objectives

Cover	X
Contain	X
Educate	X
Reduce/Minimize	X
Product Substitution	

ONLY USE DESIGNATED WASHRACKS AND WASH AREAS FOR VEHICLE WASH DOWNS.

Wash racks are designed to trap sediment and pollutants before they are discharged into the sanitary sewer systems. Wash racks on Ft. Belvoir have oil/water separators (OWS). Special considerations and restrictions are to be taken when using these wash racks (Please see Wash Rack Usage Guide).

GUIDELINES

- Keep good housekeeping practices. Reference BMP Factsheet Overview for more details.
- Use “dry” washing techniques whenever possible (brushes, wipes, powders, etc.) and use as little water as possible.
- If power washing **without** detergents or soaps, wastewater may only drain to vegetated areas or areas where it can evaporate. **Do not** let wastewater enter storm drains. Do not wash vehicles near streams or wetlands.
- Detergents and solvents are **NEVER** to be used unless washing/degreasing activities are being carried out at designated wash rack facilities and products being used are approved by DPW/Env. Div.
- If detergents must be used make sure they are in accordance with the designated wash facilities ****See Wash Rack Guide for list of approved detergents****
- Reduce the amount of heavy metals and paint chips removed from equipment during the washing process by reducing water pressure and choose the least abrasive cleaning techniques.
- If washing small portable equipment like lawn mowers and where no soaps or detergents are used (plain water only), mowers or equipment may be washed on flat grassy areas that are not near surface water bodies or storm drain inlets. Wastes generated by cleaning, such as grass clippings, should be collected and disposed of by composting or in the trash.
- Do not store solvents or degreasers in the wash area.
- Do not pour oil, transmission fluid or other such liquids down the storm drain.

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MAINTENANCE/ GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Train all current and new employees who perform vehicle or equipment washing on this BMP annually or when hired.
- If vehicles or equipment are cleaned in the field (such as brushing off mowing equipment) collect all waste items such as rags, towels, or brushes. These items can contain pollutants like oils and greases and must be placed in DOT approved containers and turned into DPW/Hazwaste Building 1495 for proper disposal.
- Clean wash areas regularly to remove potential sources of pollutants.
- Keep rags, mops, absorbents, and other cleaning supplies (spill kit) readily accessible to cleanup spills.
- Use non-toxic or less hazardous cleaning products whenever possible.
- Properly store cleaning products in labeled containers.
- Keep aircrafts, vehicles, and equipment tuned up and check for leaks on a regular basis.



SPILL RESPONSE PROCEDURES

In the event of a spill or leak, follow the appropriate Spill Response Procedures posted at your facility or refer to the BMP Factsheet Overview.

- **Survey the incident** from a safe distance. Identify the source of release and the material being released.
- Call the Ft. Belvoir Fire Department if spills are greater than 5 gallons OR greater than 5 square feet. If ANY amount of leaked material has entered a storm drain or waterway call the Ft. Belvoir Fire Department at 703-781-1800 and DPW Environmental Division (Env. Div.) at 703-806-3694.
- Provide the Safety Data Sheet of the spilled material to the spill response personnel.
- Fill out Spill Incident Report in your SWPPP.
- REPORT ALL SPILLS REGARDLESS OF SIZE TO DPW/ENV. DIV.

REPORT SPILLS TO DPW/ENV. DIV. BY:

- E-mailing your Spill Incident Report to zachary.d.witman.civ@army.mil
- Calling 703-806-3694