

**Oak Park Conservancy District
Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Good Housekeeping Practices (GHPs)**

GHP-11

Activity: Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning

**PLANNING
CONSIDERATIONS:**

Training:
None

PE Design
Approval:
Not required

Maintenance:
Low

Inspection
Frequency:
If reported



Target Pollutants

Significant ♦

Partial ♦

Low or Unknown ♦

Sediment ♦ Heavy Metals ♦ Nutrients ♦ Oxygen Demanding Substances ♦ Toxic Materials ♦
Oil & Grease ♦ Bacteria & Viruses ♦ Floatable Materials ♦ Construction Waste ♦

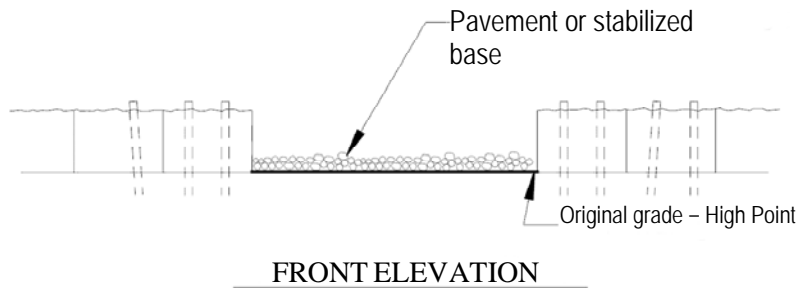
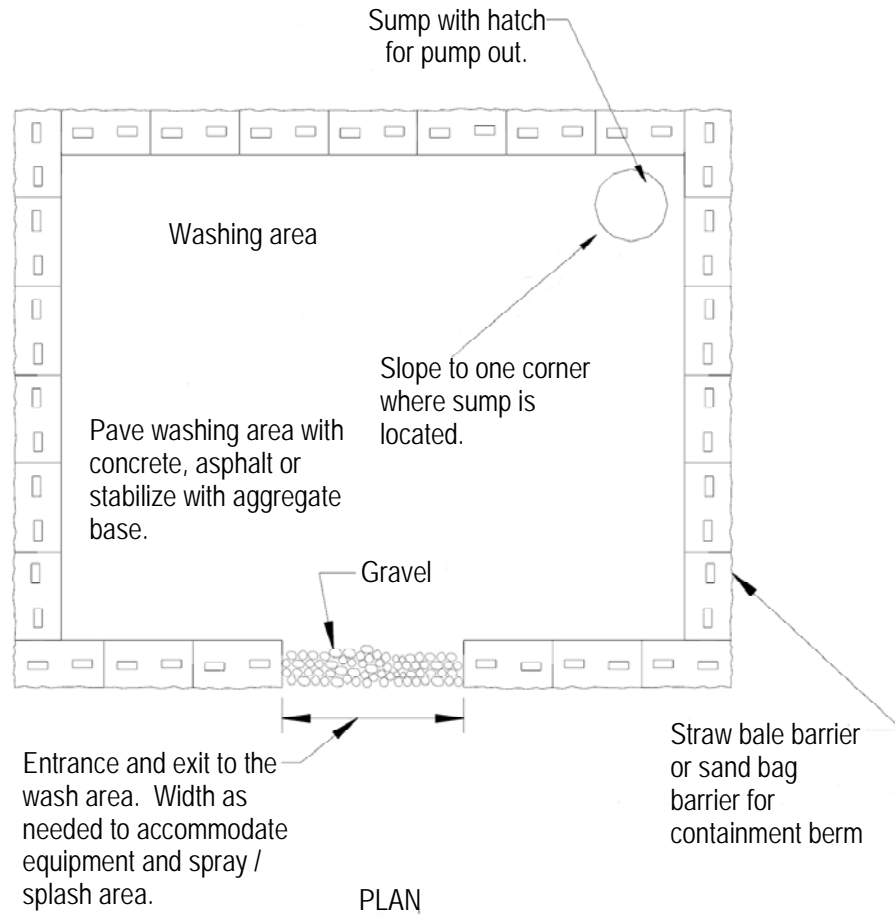
Description

The source of pollution through improper vehicle and equipment cleaning can be abated by cleaning equipment using an off-site facility, washing in designated contained areas only, infiltrating or recycling the wash water and by training employees and subcontractors.

Approach

- Use off-site commercial washing businesses as much as possible except for removing mud and dirt off equipment while on site. Washing vehicles and equipment outdoors or in areas where wash water flows onto paved surfaces or into drainage pathways can pollute stormwater. If you wash a large number of vehicles or pieces of equipment, consider conducting this work at an off-site commercial business.
- Off-site commercial businesses are better equipped to handle and dispose of the wash waters properly. Performing this work off-site can also be economical by eliminating the need for a separate washing operation at your site.
- If washing must occur on-site, use designated, bermed wash areas to prevent wash water entering stormwater infrastructure, creeks, rivers, and other water bodies. The wash area can be sloped for wash water collection and subsequent infiltration into the ground.

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Approach (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps. ➤ Educate employees and subcontractors on pollution prevention measures about the importance of this practice. ➤ Do not permit steam cleaning on-site. Steam cleaning can generate significant pollutant concentrations. ➤ Clean all vehicles/equipment off-site that regularly enter and leave the construction site. ➤ When vehicle/equipment washing/cleaning must occur on-site, and the operation cannot be located within a structure or building equipped with sanitary sewer facilities, the outside cleaning area shall have the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Located away from storm drain inlets, drainage facilities, or watercourses; 2. Paved with concrete or asphalt, or stabilized with an aggregate base; 3. Configured wash area with a sump to allow collection and disposal of wash water; 4. Discharge wash water to a sanitary or process waste sewer (where permitted), or to a dead end sump. Wash waters shall not be discharged to storm drains or watercourses. ➤ When cleaning vehicles/equipment with water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use as little water as possible to avoid having to install erosion and sediment controls for the wash area. High-pressure sprayers may use less water than a hose, and should be considered. 2. Use positive shutoff valve to minimize water usage. ➤ DO NOT use solvents to clean vehicles/equipment on site.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimal, some berm repair may be necessary, inspect weekly. ➤ Service sump regularly.
Inspection Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sending vehicles/equipment off-site should be done in conjunction with a stabilized construction entrance and mud tracking removal. <input type="checkbox"/> The local sewer authority may require pretreatment and monitoring of wash water discharges to the sanitary sewer and should be consulted first.



TYPICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT CLEANING AREA
NOT TO SCALE

Figure GHP-11-01
Typical Vehicle & Equipment Cleaning Area