

# PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS FOR CLEAN WATER

Maintenance Garages  
and Storage Yards

## Why does it matter?

Stormwater can carry pollution and chemicals directly into ditches and storm drains which connect to lakes, rivers and streams. It is up to you to protect clean water.

## Dumpsters and trash bins

- Keep dumpster lids closed and cover trash bins.
- Keep dumpsters or the dumpster enclosure locked to prevent illegal dumping.
- Never place hazardous waste in a dumpster or trash bin.
- Check loading and unloading equipment regularly for leaks.
- Locate dumpsters on a flat, concrete surface that does not slope or drain directly into the storm drain system.
- Do not hose out the dumpster interior. Apply absorbent over any fluids spilled in the dumpster.



Photo Courtesy of the City of Tacoma.

## Vehicles and equipment washing

- Only wash equipment and vehicles in designated facilities where the wastewater drains to the sanitary sewer or is collected and recycled.
- Or, take your vehicles to a commercial wash that collects and treats the wastewater.

## Vehicles and equipment maintenance

- Perform vehicle and equipment maintenance in designated locations, inside the shop or outside on a paved, covered surface.
- Park damaged, dirty or leaking vehicles under cover from the rain.
- Keep maintenance areas clean & dispose of fluid in drip pans promptly.
- Clean parts indoors and properly dispose of the fluids, grease and dirt.
- Allow parts to fully drain before taking them out of the cleaning sink so that they don't drip on the floor.
- Close the lid to the parts cleaning sink when not in use.

**Contact VLAWMO for questions and additional resources: (651) 204-6070**  
**[www.VLAWMO.org/AGENCIES](http://www.VLAWMO.org/AGENCIES)**

## Vehicles and equipment parking and storage

- Inspect parking and storage areas for leaks.
- Store vehicles and equipment inside or under cover from rain and snow.
- Store vehicles on paved areas where street sweepers regularly come through.

## Vehicles and equipment fueling

- Use designated fueling areas instead of mobile fueling.
- \*If you do use mobile fueling, keep a spill kit in the fuel truck.
- Prevent spills – don't top off fuel tanks.
- Know where the emergency pump shut-off button is.
- Keep absorbents on site to clean up spills.



Have a kit prepared for quick clean-up

## Spill prevention

### ALWAYS

- Properly label all containers.
- Maintain Materials Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals.
- Sweep Chemical storage areas monthly.
- Keep a spill kit handy.

### Whenever Possible

- Keep chemicals stored off the floor and indoors.
- Store materials away from high traffic areas.
- Store batteries on open racks, return used batteries promptly and contain cracked batteries to prevent hazardous spills.

### CLEAN UP

- Use rags and absorbents for small, nonhazardous spills.
- Use absorbents, brooms, or street sweepers for larger non hazardous spills.
- Never leave a spill without cleaning it up.

