Guidance for Pollution Prevention

Vehicle Washing and Cleaning GPP 13

Version 1.2 June 2021

This guidance has been produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). For Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, this document provides guidance on environmental legislation. These guidelines are not endorsed by the Environment Agency as regulatory guidance in England.

For guidance on environmental regulations in England go to www.gov.uk.
To find the relevant regulations visit www.legislation.gov.uk.

Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents are based on relevant legislation and reflect current good practice. Following this guidance will help you manage the environmental responsibilities to prevent pollution and comply with the law.

If you cause pollution or allow it to occur, you will be committing a criminal offence. Following these guidelines will help you reduce the likelihood of a pollution incident. If one does occur contact the environmental regulator immediately on the relevant incident hotline number: In Northern Ireland and Scotland call **0800 80 70 60**, in Wales call **0300 065 3000**.

Contents

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the support from the Petrol Retailers Association in drafting this guideline. http://www.ukpra.co.uk/

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is for businesses that wash vehicles, and for anyone who washes vehicles as part of a business activity. It does not apply to householders washing their own cars. Effluent and run-off from vehicle washing and cleaning activities can damage the environment and pollute rivers, streams, burns and groundwater. Dirt, brake dust, traffic film residue and oil that is washed off are all pollutants.

The cleaning agents you use (including those labelled biodegradable or traffic film removers) are very poisonous to river life. If you cause pollution, you are breaking the law and spoiling your environment.

Dirty water or run-off from vehicle washing and cleaning carried out as a business or industrial activity is called trade effluent. Whether you're cleaning just one vehicle or responsible for a large lorry fleet, you must arrange for collection and disposal of effluent to prevent pollution. It's illegal to discharge trade effluent to the environment or into drains without permission.

1.2 Legal requirements

Formal approval may be required when carrying out certain works or activities. It can take up to four months to process an application for formal approval, it is therefore important you contact the environmental regulator early on in the project.

There are laws that protect land, water, air, wildlife and people from pollution. If you cause pollution you will be committing an offence. Penalties include fines, imprisonment, Fixed Penalty Notices, stopwork notices or equivalent, and having to pay clean-up costs, along with damage to your reputation.

The Legal requirements are different throughout the United Kingdom (UK) (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). If you are located in **Scotland** or **Northern Ireland**, you can find information on your legal environmental obligations by visiting the NetRegs website. In **Wales** guidance on regulations can be found on the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) website (see **Further information**).

1.3 Pollution Prevention

It is important to understand how activities could affect the environment and cause pollution. Think about what pollution linkages there are (see Figure 1.).

Figure 1. Example of a pollution linkage using the source > pathway > receptor model.

NOTE: Groundwater is both a pathway and a receptor.

The site and activities will only cause a risk to the environment or people if you have all three parts of the pollutant linkage present i.e. a source, a pathway and a receptor. You should put in place measures to prevent or minimise or mitigate the effects of any risks and thereby break the pollutant linkages between these three. By doing this, you can identify how to prevent or reduce the likelihood of pollution and reduce the impact of any risks that may occur. It is important that you fully understand the local drainage network as pollution is often caused by mistaking a surface water drain for a foul/combined sewer. Contact your local water company for advice on this.

If you cause pollution you will be responsible for the clean-up cost. This can be expensive and time consuming particularly if groundwater has become contaminated. There may be additional costs associated with recovering the cost for the environmental regulator's response (in line with the Polluter Pays Principle), you may receive fines through the criminal courts or civil claims and you may experience a reputational cost i.e. loss of future work.

Following this Guidance for Pollution Prevention will help you reduce the likelihood of an incident. However, if one does occur contact the environmental regulator immediately on the relevant Incident Hotline number. A rapid response to incidents will help to minimise the environmental impact and could reduce the overall costs.

For more information refer to **Section 10**.

Good Practice Summary

- **Keep a site drainage plan**
  Know where surface water drains are and where to connect to the foul sewer.
- **Colour code your drains**
  Blue for surface water and red for the foul sewer.
- **Have an oil separator installed where runoff is contaminated with oils or fuels**
  Such as servicing and refuelling areas.
- **Make sure washwater from vehicle cleaning doesn't enter the oil separator (it will stop it working)**
- **If possible, drain washwater from vehicles to the foul sewer and get a trade effluent consent from your sewer provider.**
- **If there is no foul sewer, collect washwater for disposal offsite by a waste company. Alternatively use cleaning methods that don't produce any liquid waste.**
- **Cover your wash areas to reduce the volume of wastewater you produce and need to deal with.**
- **Manage all your waste according to your duty of care**
  e.g. empty containers, oily rags or used cleaning cloths.
- **Don't let washwater from vehicles enter the surface water drains.**
- **Never wash vehicles on unmade ground.**
- **Don't wash vehicles where runoff can drain into surface water drains or SUDS.**
  For example in car parks.
- **Never discharge washwater to a foul sewer without contacting your sewer provider to get a trade effluent consent.**
- **Don't use pressure washers, unless you have a designated washbay.**

Section 3: Site drainage

3.1 Keep a site drainage plan

You should keep an accurate site drainage plan. A drainage plan should clearly show the foul sewers, any combined drainage systems and any surface water drains. Your plan should show where all drainage discharges to. Use the colour coding described in **Section 3.3**. You should also show silt traps, oil separators and any other drainage infrastructure incorporated into the drainage network.

3.2 Keep detergents away from oil separators

All garages where maintenance and repairs are carried out should have an oil separator installed on the surface water drainage system. This will capture oils and fuels from maintenance and refuelling areas. The runoff from a car washbay must not be discharged through the oil separator, as this will prevent it working properly. Make sure water with detergents does not drain to your oil separator. You need to inspect the oil separator regularly, clean it when necessary and keep a log of inspections and cleaning. You can find information on oil separators in Reference 1 - GPP3 Installation and Maintenance of Oil Separators

3.3 Colour code your drains

Surface water drains, gullies and manhole covers should be colour coded, using blue for surface water and red for the foul sewer (or combined sewer). See Figure 2 below.

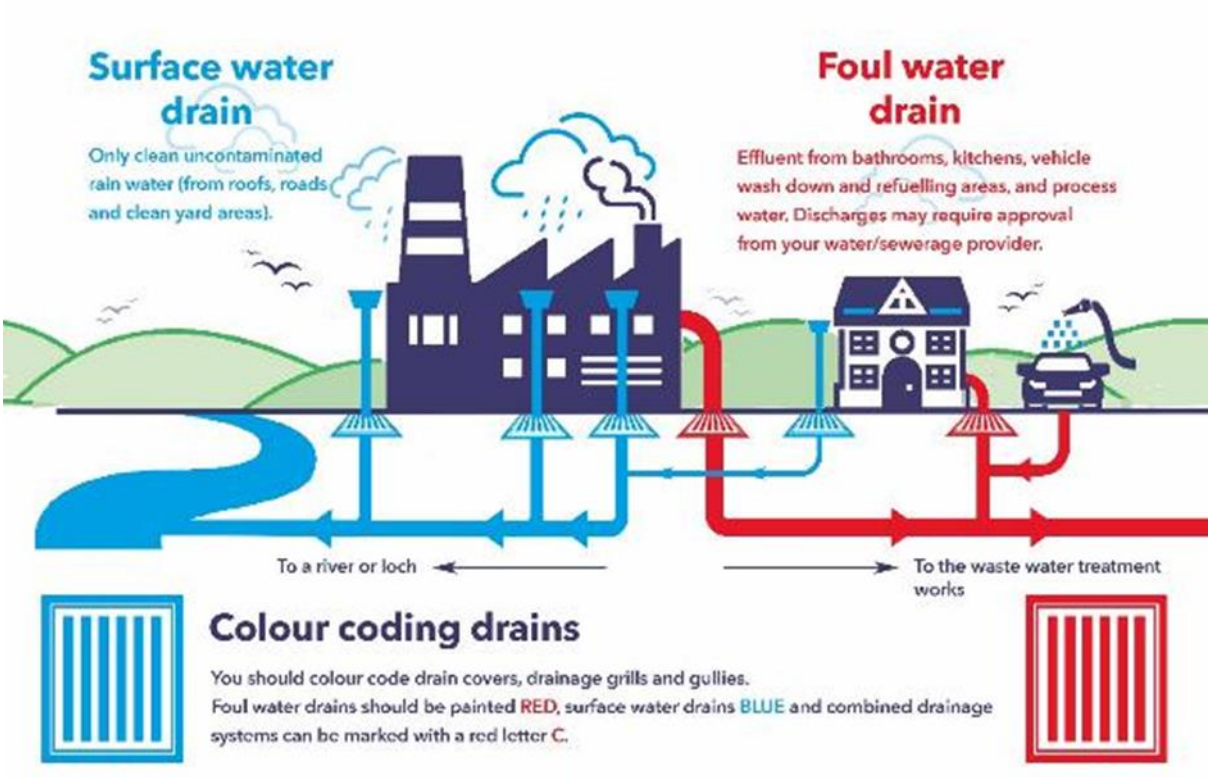

Figure 2. Drain identification.

Clean uncontaminated runoff from roofs should go directly to surface water drains, if possible downstream of the oil separator. Roof water downpipes should connect directly to the surface water system using sealed top, side entry gullies or direct drain points. Avoiding the use of open grates will help you prevent contaminated water entering the surface water drains. Consider putting a roof over your wash bays to reduce the amount of effluent draining to the foul sewer.

3.4 Contaminated water and trade effluent consents

All contaminated water, used for cleaning, from washbasins and from compressors should be disposed of to the foul sewer. Avoid any possibility of them being connected to roof water downpipes or disposed of to surface water drains. See **Section 3.3** above.

You will need to have a trade effluent consent from your sewer provider. This will give details of what can be discharged to the foul sewer, along with the permitted rates and volumes. Wherever this guideline mentions disposing of liquid waste to sewer, you must have obtained this consent. See Reference 2 - Water and sewerage providers.

3.5 If no foul sewer is available

If you can't recycle water or connect to a suitable public foul sewer, you'll have to consider these options:

- carry out washing and cleaning activities on another site that does have proper facilities
- collect all the effluent in a sealed system for off-site removal as a liquid waste. You will have to comply with waste management licencing or environmental permitting regulations.
- install your own trade effluent treatment system. The system must be designed, manufactured and installed to treat washing effluent to a good enough quality to discharge to the environment (to land or watercourse) or to a private surface water sewer. You need permission from your environmental regulator (a consent, permit or authorisation) for this and an annual charge is payable. Permission is not given automatically, so you must talk to your environmental regulator before you buy any equipment or make any connection or discharge.
- If consent is given, it will usually require the use of biodegradable detergents. In **Northern Ireland**, consent to discharge for this type of activity will not normally be granted. Contact details for the environmental regulators are at the end of this guidance.

3.6 Pollution Incident Response Plan

You should have a pollution incident response plan in place. Reference 3: GPP21- Pollution Incident Response Planning provides information on how to identify pollution risks and the need to train staff in how to prevent risks, and also deal with a spill or other incident on site.

You should keep a spill kit with suitable materials close to where a risk of pollution exists. Make sure the spill kit contains absorbent materials that are appropriate for the liquids, chemicals or any other substances that could be spilled at the premises, such as detergents or other cleaning chemicals.

3.7 Vehicle maintenance areas and body shops

Areas used for vehicle maintenance will collect drips and minor spills from a number of sources. These areas must have an impermeable surface, preferably with a raised edge. Spills should be mopped up with absorbents if possible to reduce the contamination of any runoff. Oil soaked rags or absorbents must be disposed of as hazardous/special waste.

Never allow detergents from car washing or other cleaning activities to enter an oil separator, this will prevent the oil separator from working effectively.

These areas must be drained either to the foul sewer, with a trade effluent consent in place, or to a sealed sump. If drained to the foul sewer you should have an oil separator in place to prevent oils and fuel entering the sewer.

If you have a workshop pit that collects water, and have a gully and pump, then this should also be connected via an oil separator to the foul sewer or into a sealed sump.
See Reference 6: GPP 19 Vehicle servicing and repairs

Section 4: Waste management

If you produce, import or arrange for waste to be disposed of, you have a legal responsibility to make sure it's stored, transported, kept, treated and/or disposed of without harming the environment. This is called your Duty of Care.

Under the Duty of Care legislation (see Reference 4) you have a legal duty to make sure any waste you produce does not escape from your control. Waste must be transferred to an authorised, registered or exempt waste carrier or appropriately authorised waste site. It must be accompanied by a full description of the waste and a Waste Transfer Note and be disposed of lawfully. You should check on the proposed destination and ensure the site is authorised to receive the waste.

In **Scotland** and **Northern Ireland** you must separate dry recyclable materials such as paper, card, glass, metals and plastics. These must be collected separately from other wastes and managed in such a manner as to allow high quality recycling.

Some types of waste, called 'hazardous wastes' or in Scotland, 'special wastes', such as oily wastes, acids, solvents and solvent-based products are harmful to human health or to the environment.

When dealing with hazardous/special wastes:

- you must store, handle and dispose of these differently to non-hazardous wastes
- you must not mix different types of hazardous or special wastes together
- if you mix hazardous or special wastes with non-hazardous wastes then you must consider everything as hazardous or special waste
- the movement of hazardous/special wastes must be accompanied by a consignment note. Everyone involved in the transfer of the waste, including your environmental regulator, must keep copies of the consignment notes for proof of legal disposal.

In **Wales** any premises that produces less than 500 kg of hazardous waste in a 12-month period is exempt from registering. However hazardous waste moved from an exempt premises must still be covered by a Hazardous Waste Consignment Note. The unique Consignment Note code will show that the waste has come from an exempt premises.

For guidance on the handling, storage and consignment of hazardous/special waste see Reference 10.

Section 5: Chemical storage

Chemicals such as paints, detergents, degreasers and solvents should be stored in an area that is:

- secure - avoid sites close to a boundary fence
- away from where vehicles move around to minimise the risk of collision or damage to storage systems
- clearly signposted, with a clear boundary, for example a kerb.

Secure bunded storage cabinets should be used and be appropriate for the materials being stored They are available in a variety of sizes, according to the capacity required. Particular care should be taken to ensure that containers and bunds are resistant to attack from the stored substance. MSDSs (Material Safety Datasheets) must be collated, updated and made available in a convenient location for all site workers to access.

Storage vessels should be clearly labelled using an accredited labelling scheme to show their contents and should be kept as close to the point of use and as far from surface water drains as possible.

Keep a drainage plan of your site and ensure that storage areas have no surface water drains. Keep spill kits close to your storage areas with absorbent materials that are appropriate to the materials stored. Make sure your staff know how to use them.

Section 6: What sort of car washing do you do?

Washing and cleaning your own business vehicles and plant on your own premises?

What do you need to wash or clean, and where? If you use a vehicle cleaning business or contractor to work on your site, it's your responsibility to provide appropriate facilities such as those detailed in **Section 7**. Using a nearby commercial wash facility, or washing equipment that re-uses water might be more cost effective.

Allowing washing and cleaning to be carried out for commercial gain by someone else on land or premises that you own?

Are you giving clear instructions about where and how the washing and cleaning is to be carried out and how solid and liquid waste should be dealt with? Have you provided appropriate facilities? As a landowner or landlord, you are responsible for:

- trade effluent and surface water discharges
- pollution caused by site contractors, service providers and tenants.

Provide advice and guidance on good environmental practices and make sure that site operators follow them - See **Section 7.** If you allow washing and cleaning to take place in an unsuitable area, you might be prosecuted for any pollution caused.

Washing and cleaning vehicles as your business?

Where and how will you carry out your business? If you offer an on-site vehicle washing and cleaning service (including franchises), you must use a designated washing area that has proper drainage arrangements if run-off is produced from your activities - See **Section 7.1.**

If there isn't a designated area, your activities might cause pollution and you will be responsible even if you don't own the site.

If your business involves washing cars by hand - See **Section 7.6.**

What solid wastes will you produce and what arrangements have you made for its correct disposal. See **Section 4**.

Section 7. Requirements for all vehicle washing and cleaning activities

Activities that produce run-off from the vehicle onto the ground and use cleaning and valeting products should be carried out in areas that are clearly marked and isolated from surface water drainage systems, unmade ground and porous surfaces. These areas are called designated washing bays.

7.1 Designated washing bays

A designated washing bay should be designed so that run-off is:

- minimised, by putting a roof over it if possible
- isolated using channels, gullies, gradient (fall on the surface) and kerbs
- directed to a silt trap or settlement tank to remove larger particles of silt and sediment
- either collected in a sealed system for reuse, discharged to the public foul sewer with prior permission of the local sewer provider or collected in a sealed system for authorised disposal
- never discharged to the sewer through an oil interceptor. Detergents will prevent the oil interceptor from working properly.
- If a site is retrofitted to also act as a vehicle washing and cleaning facility, the site should be assessed against the controls and measures outlined in this document. This will help decide whether or not the facility is fit for purpose for washing and cleaning activities.

You should also:

- have procedures for everyone, including contractors, that cover where and how vehicle washing and cleaning should be carried out and what to do in a spillage emergency
- provide notices for designated washing bays saying what they're for and that washing and cleaning should only be carried out in the bay
- consider whether a fence or barrier is required to prevent spray or wind drift out of the designated area
- minimise water use and solid waste production with appropriate equipment and procedures.

7.2 Reduce volume of water

You should consider ways to reduce the volume of water you use for washing and cleaning, and the amount of liquid and solid waste you produce. Recycling effluent and reusing the water is the best environmental option for dealing with vehicle washing and cleaning effluent. In periods of drought, you should check with your environmental regulator to see if you are still authorised to operate the cleaning system.

Use washing equipment that has a collection and re-use or recirculation process. These systems usually require regular, off-site removal of some water, silt or sludge so waste management licensing legislation will apply.

A waste minimisation review will help you save money on raw materials and waste disposal costs. Free, independent and practical advice on how to minimise waste is available from Wrap, WRAP NI, Resource Efficient Scotland and Resource Efficient Wales. See Reference 5: Business efficiency support

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7.3 Connecting to a foul sewer and obtaining consent

If recycling and reuse isn't possible, discharging all the vehicle washing and cleaning effluent to a public foul sewer is generally the next best environmental option. The effluent flows to a purpose-built and closely monitored sewage treatment plant.

You must have consent from your local sewer provider if you plan to discharge vehicle washing and cleaning effluent into the public foul sewer.

You need permission from your local sewer provider to discharge vehicle washing and cleaning effluent to a public foul sewer. Permission (a consent or agreement) isn't given automatically so you must talk to your sewer provider before you make any connection or discharge. ***If you don't have their consent, you're breaking the law***. See Reference 2 to find your local sewer provider.

You're likely to pay for this discharge; the amount depends on volume and chemical composition. You should give your local sewer provider an accurate site drainage plan to support your proposals. You might have to cover your designated washing bay to prevent clean rainwater adding to the volume of effluent. Your sewer provider might make it a condition of your consent that only certain types of detergent, for example biodegradable, will be used and discharged into the sewer. Never allow any detergents to enter an oil separator as this can stop it working properly.

7.4 If no foul sewer is available

If you can't recycle water or connect to a suitable public foul sewer, you'll have to consider these options:

- carry out washing and cleaning activities on another site that does have proper facilities
- collect all the effluent in a sealed system for off-site removal as a liquid waste. Waste management licensing legislation will apply.
- If you can't recycle water or connect to a suitable public foul sewer please consider the options as set out in **Section 3.5**. However, in **Northern Ireland** consent to discharge for this type of activity will not normally be granted. Contact details for NRW, EA, NIEA and SEPA are at the end of this guidance.

7.5 High pressure washers and steam cleaners

High pressure washers (including jet washers) and steam cleaners are effective at removing dirt, grease and coatings from vehicles, machinery and surfaces. But they use large volumes of water (500 – 7,200 litres an hour), often at high temperatures and containing cleaning chemicals. However, they may use less water than a simple hose.

If you are cleaning vehicles and plant with a high pressure washer (jet wash) or steam cleaner, you must use a designated washing bay.

If you use a pressure washer to clean roads, yard surfaces, other equipment or in areas where the drainage isn't collected or connected to the foul sewer, you must stop run-off from entering surface water drains. **See section 3** for good practice advice for dealing with this runoff.

Never allow run-off containing cleaning chemicals, detergents or emulsifiers to enter surface water drains or drain to a soakaway without treatment as this will cause pollution and prevent oil separators from working properly. For more information see Reference 1: GPP3 Installation and Maintenance of Oil Separators.

7.6 Washing by hand

If you wash, clean or valet vehicles by hand, or are responsible for a site where this service is offered, you must have good site management procedures and practices in place to avoid pollution. You should use designated wash bays as detailed in **Section 7.1**, or make sure that you have other satisfactory arrangements in place.

However, it may be acceptable to clean or valet private cars by hand in areas such as car parks, without designated wash bays (roving activities), if:

- your working method doesn't produce any runoff from the vehicle
- or the runoff from the vehicle is contained, collected or treated in some way and dealt with or disposed of legally
- and you can show us that the proposed activity will not adversely affect separators and SUDS, or damage the environment at any time.

In **Scotland**, General Binding Rules (GBRs) prohibit the discharge of trade effluent and detergents to surface water drains.

Your environmental regulator (or the sewer provider) may not allow roving hand car washing (as described above) to take place because of the environmental sensitivity of the site or other factors which makes the activity likely to cause environmental harm.

You are advised to contact your environmental regulator (contact details at the end of this document) before you set up or start a roving washing operation to find out if your proposals are acceptable from an environmental protection point of view.

If your environmental regulator does agree to roving activities (as described above), you must also have:

- clear, well understood procedures
- good working practices
- close management control at all times, and:
- use the minimum amount of water

- never use hoses or high-pressure washers
- don't carry out roving activities where dirty water or other runoff could enter or be washed by rain into surface water drains
- make sure that buckets and containers of dirty water/effluent are emptied into clearly marked and agreed points connected to the foul sewer. This water is also a trade effluent and you need permission from the local sewer provider to dispose to a public foul sewer. See Reference 2: Water and Sewerage providers.

and, where you are producing no noticeable runoff from the vehicle or collecting it in some way:

- apply the minimum amount of cleaning product and ensure no spray drift
- use cleaning and valeting chemicals diluted to appropriate working strengths; never use undiluted concentrates
- don't use products that are unsuitable for hand washing, e.g. commercial traffic film remover
- Please note – washing very dirty vehicles, commercial vehicles or engine compartments by hand must only be carried out in designated wash bays.

7.7 Automatic cleaning systems

These systems use a variety of techniques but generally involve the use of water jets and rotating brushes, and they often have a drying facility.

It's possible to get systems which filter, re-circulate and re-use most of the water but they still require a connection to the foul sewer for overflow and filter backwash water. As with all discharges to the public foul sewer, this is regarded as a trade effluent and its disposal requires permission from the local sewer provider. If no foul sewer is available, you'll have to consider the options in **Section 3.5**. Waste management legislation applies to the disposal of solid trade waste, silt and sump sludge from these systems. See **Section 4.**

In periods of drought you should check with your environmental regulator to see if you are still authorised to operate the cleaning system.

7.8 Cleaning platforms

In this system, a vehicle is driven onto a mobile or static cleaning platform, which has an integral containment sump for holding wash water. Cleaning chemicals are sprayed or applied by hand onto the vehicle, which is then sponged and wiped dry.

The wash water is either discharged to a foul drain or settled and passed through a series of filters and tanks where it's cleaned and then circulated for re-use.

When using this system, you must contain wash water and cleaning chemicals to prevent them entering surface water drains. Waste management legislation applies to the disposal of solid trade waste, silt and sump sludge. See **Section 4.**

7.9 Vehicle cleaning with no water

Technologies for hand washing that don't use water on site have been developed. Vehicles are sprayed with a product which cleans the surface and applies a polish in one application. Towels and micro-fibre materials are used to remove dirt and polish the vehicle. Used towelling is machine washed off site.

If no liquid effluent or application spray drift is produced, this method is unlikely to cause water pollution on site. The cleaning agent must be used as intended and stored safely. You must follow the requirements for general hand washing in **Section 7.6** where appropriate, and consider how you will prevent spray drift from landing on hard surfaces draining to surface water drains.

Waste management legislation applies to the storage and disposal of solid trade waste, such as used polishing cloths and empty containers. See **Section 4.**

You must follow the manufacturer's recommendations for handling and using these products including the need to use appropriate personal protective equipment.

Section 8: Vehicle dewaxing

The dewaxing and degreasing of vehicles and components must be carried out in a designated washbay and not on unmade ground or in areas which discharge to surface water drains, watercourses or soakaway. A wash water recycling system will reduce water use and associated costs.

The washbay should be impermeable and isolated from the surrounding area by a raised kerb or roll-over bund, with the effluent directed to foul sewer.

If there is no foul sewer available, then drain the effluent to a sealed sump. Effluent from high pressure water and steam cleaners can cause problems and these should only be used in designated washbays.

NB. You should take particular care when using hydrocarbons such as paraffin and white spirit as degreasers, as these substances are toxic to river life and can cause pollution to surface waters and groundwater. In no circumstances should these substances be discharged to surface water drains. Disposal to foul sewer may also be unacceptable and you must contact the sewerage provider. Never allow wash water containing detergents to enter an oil interceptor as this will stop it working properly.

Section 9: Cleaning yards and forecourts

Have a site drainage plan – see **Section 3.**

Never use degreasers or steam cleaners to clean such areas unless the area drains to foul sewer. For areas that drain to surface water or to ground via a drainage field/soakaway there are two options:

I. Any liquid is soaked up using absorbent material which should be safely disposed of off-site. Sealing of gullies may be appropriate to prevent liquid or absorbent entering the drainage system.

or

II. Fit a valve at the oil separator outlet to close it off during the cleaning operation and remove all accumulated washings for disposal off-site. Install an alarm to indicate that the closure valve is in the shut position.

Section 10: Incident response

Incident Hotline Numbers:

In **Scotland**, **Northern Ireland** and **England** call:	In **Wales** call:
0800 80 70 60	**0300 065 3000**
(24 hour service)	**(24 hour service; Press 1 for Welsh, 2 for English)**

You should immediately report any environmental incidents by calling the Incident Hotline for your country.

Incidents can include spillages (e.g. from oils and chemicals), contaminated surface water run-off, flooding, riverbed disturbance, damage to underground services, damage to habitats and poor waste disposal and storage. If in doubt, report it.

You should produce an Incident Response Plan as part of the environmental impact management of your work. Include the following:

- site risks
- list of key external and internal contacts (include your environmental regulator, Local Authority, Fire Service)
- reporting procedures
- site plan including drainage and location of storage/refuelling areas
- list of stored materials
- details of local environmental sensitivities e.g. abstractors, high amenity areas and fish farms
- location of spill equipment
- procedures for spill containment and remediation

Train your staff and contractors in the use of spill equipment and how to manage and dispose of waste materials legally.

If you are using oils and chemicals in close proximity to the water environment, store a suitable spill kit or absorbent materials nearby. Provide appropriate temporary storage for any oils and chemicals. Contain all spillages using absorbents such as sand, soil or commercially available booms or pads and notify the environmental regulator immediately, using the Incident Hotline numbers above.

Glossary

Biodegradable	Can be broken down by natural processes.
Clean water drain	A drain that connects to surface water, such as rivers, ditches etc.
Designated wash bays	An impermeable area without any surface water drains.
Duty of care	Your responsibilities for waste.
Foul drain	Connects to a public foul sewer.
Foul sewer	Takes contaminated water via a public sewer to a waste water treatment plant.
Groundwater	All the water held below ground level in soils and rocks.
Hazardous/special waste	Waste with hazardous properties.
High pressure washers	Washers that spray water (and cleaners) at a high pressure.
Material Safety Data Sheet	Is a document that contains information on the potential hazards (health, fire, reactivity and environmental) and how to work safely with the chemical product. It is an essential starting point for the development of a complete health and safety program.
Oil separator	A device designed to prevent oil in a site's runoff from entering surface water drains.
PIRP	Pollution Incident Response Plan
Public sewer	Either a foul sewer or combined sewer (both sewage and surface water) that takes wastewater to a treatment plant
Runoff	The channelled rainwater that runs off roofs and made up surfaces You should keep this separate from contaminated water from washing activities which needs to be treated as effluent.
Sewer	Foul sewer that connects to waste water treatment plant.
Spill response plan	PIRP – Pollution Incident Response Plan – a statement of how to deal with a spill to prevent pollution.

Steam cleaners	Blast steam at dirt. Often used to clean engines and other machinery.
SuDS	Sustainable (Urban) Drainage Systems – convey and contain runoff usually above ground without pipes. Treat light contamination and reduce flood risk.
Sump	A storage tank for liquids.
Surface water drain	Connects directly to the water environment (rivers, burns, streams, ditches, groundwater etc.
Trade effluent	Any liquid waste produced by your business.
Trade effluent consent	Permission to discharge liquid waste into a sewer.
Wash bays	Impermeable areas with no connection to surface water drains, which contain the runoff from washing activities.
Waste carrier	Someone licenced to collect your waste.

References

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WRAP Northern Ireland: http://www.wrapni.org.uk/
Resource Efficient Scotland http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com/
Resource Efficient Wales: http://resourceefficient.gov.wales/?lang=en WRAP England: http://www.wrap.org.uk/category/subject/resource-efficiency-0

Reference 6: GPP 19: Vehicle Servicing and Repairs
http://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-prevention-guidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpps-full-list/prevention-gpps-full-list/

Reference 7: Northern Ireland Planning – Standing Advice 25
http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/northern_ireland_environment_agency_guidance/standing_advice.htm

Reference 8: Public registers of licenced waste sites
Northern Ireland – DAERA – Public register of licensed waste sites. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/waste/public-registers
Scotland – SEPA – Waste sites and capacity.
https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/waste-site-information/waste-sites-and-capacity-excel/reporting/waste-site-information/waste-sites-and-capacity-excel/

Natural Resources Wales' Public Register: http://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/check-for-a-permit-licence-or-exemption/?lang=enpermit-licence-or-exemption/?lang=en
England – Environment Agency – Search public registers. http://epr.environment-agency.gov.uk/ePRInternet/SearchRegisters.aspx

Reference 9: Public register of licensed waste carriers
Northern Ireland - NIEA: Registered carriers / transporters database https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/registered-waste-carrierstransporters
Scotland - SEPA: Registered waste carriers and brokers http://apps.sepa.org.uk/rocas/
Wales - Wales: Registered Waste Carriers https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/check-for-a-permit-licence-or-exemption/?lang=en
England - England: Registered Waste Carriers https://www.gov.uk/guidance/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-informationenvironmental-information

Reference 17 Hazardous/Special Waste

In Scotland and Northern Ireland see NetRegs: Hazardous/Special Waste guidance pages https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/waste/hazardous-special-waste/

In Wales: Register as a producer of Hazardous Waste https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/waste-permitting/register-or-renew-as-a-hazardous-waste-producer/?lang=en

In Wales: see Hazardous Waste guidance https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/waste-management/completing-hazardous-waste-consignment-notes/?lang=en

Further information

For information about environmental compliance, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit www.netregs.org.uk.

You can view guidance on environmental regulations online at www.netregs.org.uk (for businesses in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and at http://naturalresources.Wales (for businesses in Wales).

This guidance is issued by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

This document is available at www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-preventionguidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/.

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Useful contacts

Incident/Pollution hotline: Northern Ireland, Scotland and England	**0800 80 70 60** (24-hour service)
Emergency hotline - Wales	**0300 065 3000** (24-hour service; press 1 for Welsh, 2 for English)
Floodline – Wales, Scotland and England	**0845 988 1188**
Flooding incident line - Northern Ireland	**0300 200 0100**

Natural Resources Wales	**Scottish Environment Protection Agency**	**Northern Ireland Environment Agency**
www.naturalresourcesWales.gov.uk	www.sepa.org.uk	www.daera-ni.gov.uk
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