



Potential Environmental Impacts

Vehicle maintenance wastewater is floor washdown and incidental drippage from vehicles as a result of routine servicing operations, washing vehicle exteriors or steam cleaning engines, or vehicle dismantling or crushing. It may contain chemicals such as oils, degreasers, gasoline, diesel fuel, detergents, heavy metals and antifreeze. In some instances it may contain solvents. If discharged through a dry well or septic system to the ground, these chemicals may render drinking water supplies unfit for human consumption. If discharged directly or indirectly to surface water these chemicals can be toxic to fish and other aquatic life.



Shop wastewater directed outside is an illegal discharge.

Legal Requirements

- ◆ If your facility has floor drains, they must connect to either 1) a sewer line that connects to a sewage treatment plant or, 2) a holding tank. If you do not know where your floor drains lead, the building plans that you have or that are on file at the town hall may show locations of drain discharges. Floor drains must not discharge to a septic system, a drywell, or a storm sewer.
- ◆ A permit is required if your facility has floor drains [[CGS Section 22a-430](#)]. If you meet the conditions listed below, you may qualify for the [Non-Significant Industrial User General Permit](#) (“Non-SIU General Permit”).
 - The facility discharges no more than an average of 25,000 gallons per day of vehicle maintenance wastewater.
 - All vehicle maintenance wastewater must be treated using an oil/water separator, with the exception of discharges from small autobody repair or small volume vehicle detailing facilities, as defined in the Non-SIU General Permit.
 - Vehicle maintenance wastewater must discharge either through a sewer line to a sewage treatment plant or to a holding tank. If the holding tank is installed, you must have a permitted transporter haul the wastewater to a sewage treatment plant that is properly permitted to accept vehicle maintenance wastewater. A [list](#) of permitted transporters can be found on DEEP’s website.
 - Vehicles must be washed, steam-cleaned and/or serviced within a roofed structure constructed to keep vehicle wastewater separate from stormwater.

- The oil/water separator must be inspected at least twice per year. A log of these inspections must be kept at the facility. The separator must be cleaned out as often as necessary to assure effective operation.
- Oil, water and grit removed from the oil/water separator must be sent to a facility that is permitted to accept such wastes. In addition, the waste must be picked up and hauled to this facility by a permitted transporter. See the Used Oil Fact Sheet for additional requirements on the management of this waste.
- If vehicle wastewater is collected in a holding tank, the wastewater must be picked up by a permitted transporter and brought to a facility that is permitted to accept it. If the facility that you send your wastewater to is a used oil recycler, you must also manage your wastewater under the used oil requirements. (See the Used Oil Fact Sheet for more information on these requirements.)
- Chemical liquids, such as oil or petroleum, antifreeze, paints, degreasers (both solvent and aqueous based), and rust proofing compounds, should be stored and disposed of in accordance with all state and federal requirements. Proper precautions should be taken so that these liquids do not end up discharging into floor drains or outside of the facility. (See Appendix A for waste management and disposal requirements.)

If your facility discharges greater than an average of 25,000 gallons per day of process wastewater, you are not eligible for coverage under the Non-SIU General Permit.

Visit the [Pretreatment Program Webpage](#) for guidance on pretreatment permitting options, copies of the general permit, Notification Form link and additional Pretreatment Program information or call DEEP's Water Permitting and Enforcement Division at 860-424-3025.

Legal References

- Permits - [CGS Section 22a-430](#)

Best Management Practices

- ★ Adopt a dry shop goal. Keep your shop floor dry and clean.
 1. Clean snow and ice off of the top of vehicles before bringing them inside.
 2. Prevent spills from ever reaching the floor by using appropriate equipment; such as funnel drum covers and overhead fluid delivery systems.
 3. Sweep or vacuum floors often.
 4. Make sure mechanics carry rags so that small spills can be wiped dry when they occur.
 5. Never hose down your work area.
- ★ Consider sealing your shop floor with epoxy or other suitable sealant so spills won't be absorbed and clean-ups will be quicker. It can reduce the liability for a clean-up of a contaminated shop floor and soil below.
- ★ If it becomes necessary to wash the floor, use only the quantity of water needed to produce the appropriate level of cleanliness. Direct all wastewater to a properly permitted floor drain (see Legal Requirements section above). Flushing floor wastes outside constitutes an illegal discharge.

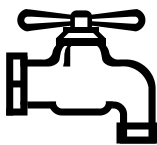
- ★ Always use self-closing faucets and nozzles to ensure no source is left running or unattended. Post this notice by all sinks and drains – “Do not pour any vehicle fluids, paints, solvents, or other wastes down sinks or drains.”
- ★ If your vehicle maintenance wastewater is collected in a holding tank and hauled to a permitted facility, you can reduce your costs by segregating the regulated vehicle maintenance wastewater from “household” type wastewater. Wastewater from bathrooms and cafeterias can be discharged to a septic system.
- ★ Only use absorbents like speedi-dry or "kitty litter" when the spill cannot be cleaned with shop rags, dedicated mops, or squeegees. Use absorbent pads and mats to prevent large spills from spreading and entering floor drains. See the Rags and Absorbents Fact Sheet on how to properly manage spent absorbents.
- ★ Clean up spills immediately so that the spilled material does not get tracked outside the building.
- ★ A permanently sealed floor drain should first have a plumber’s plug inserted inside the drain. Concrete should then be poured on top of the plumber’s plug.



Sealed floor drain—spill should be cleaned up immediately so that material doesn’t get tracked outside the building.

Pollution Prevention Checklist

- ✓ Do you have a goal of keeping your shop floor 100% dry?



Did You Know?

Currently over two million Connecticut residents rely on groundwater as their source of drinking water.

DISCLAIMER: This guidance is a tool to help you evaluate compliance at your facility. It is not a complete list of all regulations and requirements that may apply to your business. You are responsible for knowing and complying with all updated applicable state, federal, local and tribal requirements. Please be aware that environmental laws and regulations, as well as process technology may have changed significantly since these were published. Please do not rely on them for current information, but rather to provide background information.

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