

VEHICLE/PLANT OR EQUIPMENT WASHDOWN FACILITIES

1. These facilities should be roofed because:

- (a) Water collected from the wash pads is considered to be contaminated and must not be discharged to stormwater; and
- (b) Excluding rainfall reduces the volume of water that has to be contained, treated and disposed of
Any vehicle, plant or equipment cleaning activity should be undertaken within an area that is:
 - Designed to contain all the wastewater likely to pollute stormwater;
 - Bunded to exclude the entry of external surface stormwater runoff;
 - Paved with an impervious material, such as concrete, to allow wastewater collection;
 - Of sufficient size to prevent splash-out or over-spray of wash/wastewater from the washing /cleaning area; and

Designed to drain to either:

- A treatment process (such as sediment traps and a coalescing plate oil separator) with subsequent disposal to sewer, or a Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme (STEDS); or
- A holding tank that can be emptied as required by an appropriate liquid waste contractor.

If the washdown facility is not going to be roofed then an extra storage tank may be required to ensure rainfall runoff from the washdown facility does not exceed the capacity of the sewer. If using a holding tank, the capacity of the tank should allow for annual rainfall runoff from the washing/cleaning area, as well as washdown water.

- 2. Connection to a sewer or Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme would be subject to the requirements and approval of the Power and Water Authority and Dept Health & Community Services.
- 3. A wastewater treatment device may not be required if the cleaning area discharges to a holding tank that is pumped out by an appropriate liquid waste contractor.
- 4. Holding tanks should be installed subject to the following criteria:
 - Arrangements should be established between the operator, an appropriate liquid waste contractor and the Power and Water Authority for collection and disposal, and the provision of appropriate documentation for each collection and disposal;
 - An audible and visible alarm (with muting facilities for the audible component) should be installed in a conspicuous position to warn when the holding tank is 3/4 full; and
- 5. A suitable system or device should be installed that will shut off the reticulated water supply to the washbay/cleaning area if the holding tank becomes filled to capacity due to a leak into the system or lack of maintenance pumping of the system.

RECYCLING

A recycling unit to remove pollutants enabling reuse of the wash water should be considered for enclosed or open washing/cleaning areas. These units have the potential to; reduce water costs; minimise pollutants in the final wastewater; and reduce the final volume of wastewater that has to be disposed of to the sewer or removed by a liquid waste transporter.

For more information, contact:

Environment Heritage and the Arts Division
Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport
PO Box 496, PALMERSTON NT 0831
Tel 08 8924 4139
Fax 08 8924 4053
Email environment.nretas@nt.gov.au