

*This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.*

It is important to protect our waterways from the potential discharge of pollutants from operating, maintaining and repairing vehicles and equipment. Fuel, oil, and other vehicle fluids handled during these operations could potentially be washed down the storm water drainage system if not managed properly. This bulletin reviews key points from Best Management Practice (BMP) T9c-Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance and Repair and other BMPs in the *Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Maintenance Staff Guide*.

### Pre-Operation Inspection

Perform the required pre-operational inspection before using vehicles or equipment. When performing your pre-operation inspection, pay particular attention to:

- Ensure that the vehicle/equipment is clean and in good operating condition.
- Verify that hoses and clamps are secure and check for evidence of leaking.
- Cleanup spilled or leaked fluids immediately.
- Request the repair of vehicles/equipment with leaks. Place a drip pan under any leaking vehicle or equipment.

### Vehicle Fluid Removal

When removing automotive fluids such as used motor oils, coolant, or other oils from vehicles or equipment, follow these procedures:

- Transfer removed fluid to a designated used fluid storage tank as soon as possible.
- If possible, remove fluids directly into the holding tank. For example, newer types of used oil tanks can be connected to the vehicle to pump oil directly into the tank.
- If necessary, drain fluids into a drip pan and then transfer the fluids to the designated container. A larger drip pan may be required to catch any unanticipated splashing.
- Properly remove, clean, and store drip pans promptly after use.

### Engine and Parts Cleaning

When cleaning engines and parts during vehicle and equipment repair operations, follow these procedures:

- Designate specific areas for parts cleaning.

- Do not wash parts where wash waste can not be captured.
- Use self-contained sinks or tanks when working with solvents. Periodically check for leaks and make necessary repairs as soon as possible. When not in use, make sure covers are secure.



*Self-contained parts cleaner.*

- After rinsing parts, allow them to drain and dry over a solvent sink or tank. This will prevent dripping onto the floor.
- All vehicles and equipment should be washed at an approved area.

### Drain Control

To protect drains near vehicle and equipment maintenance areas:

- Drains should be labeled clearly to indicate whether they flow to a treatment system (such as an oil/water separator), a sanitary sewer, or the storm water drainage system.
- Keep internal floor drains plugged unless they drain to the sanitary sewer.
- Use dry cleanup methods, such as absorbents and sweeping, when possible. Promptly dispose of used absorbents in a designated container.
- Keep spill control equipment, materials and drain covers available to protect external (outside) drain inlets in the event of a large spill which may travel to a storm drain.

## Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance and Repair BMPs

*Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks - Maintenance Staff Guide, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jennifer Malcolm, HQ Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0086, Roger Churchwell, HQ Environmental Engineering, (916) 653-3653*

Visit our Caltrans storm water intranet website at: [HTTP://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/orside/water/watqual.htm](http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/orside/water/watqual.htm) for the latest storm water bulletins, training information, list of storm water coordinators, inspection forms, and Maintenance Staff Guide.

The storm water bulletins are also available on the Caltrans Environmental website at: [HTTP://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/Environmental/stormwater/index.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/Environmental/stormwater/index.htm)