St. George Regional Water Reclamation Facility
3780 S. 1550 W.
St. George, UT. 84790
(435) 627-4266

Automobile and/or Car Washing, Best Management Practices (BMPs)

A variety of pollutants are found in wash water generated from commercial automobile and/or car washing facilities. These pollutants include but are not limited to:

1. *Lead from brake linings and tires
2. *Zinc from tires and brakes
3. *Detergents
4. *Oil/grease
5. *Lubricants
6. *Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons:

   Gasoline Range Organics, (GRO) Diesel Range Organics, (DRO)

All commercial automobile and/or car washing facilities who desire to discharge their wash water into the sanitary sewer are required by the St. George City Pretreatment Department to discharge said wash water into a treatment device (i.e. in-ground sand and oil interceptor/oil separator) of which will discharge treated wash water to the sanitary sewer. Pursuant to United Stated Environmental Protection Agency, (USEPA) and State of Utah Department of Water Quality, (DWQ) requirements, all wash water (industrial wastewater) entering the St. George Regional Water Reclamation Facility (SGRWRF) is required to be treated before being discharged to sanitary sewer.

Best Management Practices for Commercial Automobile and/or Car Washing:

Although commercial automobile and/or car washes may already implement some BMPs, there are many others that can also be implemented to conserve water, prevent wash water from entering storm drains, and reduce the amount of pollutants entering the sanitary sewer system. Please take the time to read the following BMP's.

Automobile and/or Car Washing-BMP's

1. If floor drains are used in designated wash bays they should discharge to an in line sand and oil interceptor/oil separator of which discharges to the sanitary sewer, not storm drains.

    A. Depending on the size criteria of facility washing bays and supply and demand an in-line catch basin may be required prior to treatment through above mentioned pretreatment systems, (sand and oil interceptor/oil separator).

2. Soapy water should be pretreated before it reaches the sanitary sewer line.

3. Treat and/or recycle wash water, as this will assist your establishment to conserve water and may help optimize treatment of above mentioned pollutants.

4. Always conduct washing process under a canopy/roof of which shall direct rain/snow water away from sewer. Infiltration of rain, snow melt is prohibited.

5. Construct a berm around wash bays to contain byproduct wastewater and prevent it from infiltrating nearby storm drains.

6. Remove unnecessary hoses to minimize excessive spraying of floors and paved areas.

7. Avoid detergents whenever possible. If detergents are necessary, a phosphate-free, non-toxic, biodegradable soap is recommended. Detergents should be avoided if an oil/ water separator is used for pretreatment prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer.

8. Mount spill kits with absorbent containment materials and instructions near chemical storage areas.

    A. Immediately contain and treat all spills.

9. Install "Illegal to Discharge into the Sanitary Sewer" signage.

    A. Signage pertaining to "Illegal to Discharge into the Sanitary Sewer" can be attained by contacting the St. George City Pretreatment Department.

You must report all releases of chemicals to the sanitary sewer system.

Upon knowledge, **immediately** call the St. George Regional Water Reclamation Facility, (SGRWRF) to report the substance and approximate quantity spilled.

Reporting Phone Numbers-SGRWRF Pretreatment Department
(435) 627-4266 or (435) 627-4284

While the related health concerns mentioned are concerning and applicable to the Automobile Washing sector of our economy. They do not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying any approval, endorsement, or recommendation by St. George City. Please reference www.epa.gov, and/or www.deq.utah.gov for questions you may have pertaining to hazardous or non-hazardous chemicals, and compounds.