

The attached guidance was developed specifically for use by Department of Environmental Protection employees operating on state-managed lands, such as state parks and recreation areas. It may also be useful for other entities engaged in activities related to invasive plant management on other conservation lands. This guidance is not a rule or permit, and does not exempt anyone from obtaining any necessary permits from county or other local governmental agencies should they be required. Additionally, these management practices do not exempt anyone from following other site specific management practices that may be required in order to meet Florida water quality standards.

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Additional information on the FDEP

wastewater program, including

industrial wastewater, is available

on the web at

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/mainpage/programs/wastewater.htm>

Guidance for State Vehicle Washing on Department Managed Lands

The Department does not have specific regulations for mobile vehicle and equipment washing. Under Florida statutes, however, all "point-source discharges" are required to obtain discharge permits. Examples of this could include runoff from washwater entering surface water such as a river, stream, lake, coastal water or a stormwater drain or ditch. Additionally, the Department is required by law to enforce against violations of water quality standards should we become aware of problems at a specific site.

Therefore, the industrial wastewater section recommends that Department staff involved in vehicle and equipment washing on Department managed lands take steps such as those recommended below to minimize potential environmental impacts:

1. Prevent the discharge of wash waters to surface waters and stormwater management systems.
2. Avoid using excessive quantities of wash water.
3. Avoid nuisance conditions such as onsite ponding of wash water or runoff onto neighboring properties. Prevent runoff of wash water runoff to other properties.
4. Use biodegradable cleaning compounds. Avoid using detergents that contain phosphates, petroleum based solvents, or chlorinated solvents.
5. High pressure washing, steam-cleaning or degreasing of vehicle undercarriages or engines should be avoided.
6. Use a garden hose with a low pressure nozzle to remove salt, mud, and invasive vegetation from vehicle undercarriage. Avoid washing undercarriage for other purposes.
7. Direct the wash waters to grassed areas or other permeable surface where the water can be contained and allowed to evaporate or percolate into the ground.
8. Avoid washing activities within 100 feet of a public drinking water well, 75 feet of a private drinking water well or 200 feet from surface waters.
9. Avoid washing wastes from the payload areas of vehicles used to transport uncontainerized solid wastes which require disposal in a Class I landfill (i.e. garbage, trash, etc.). This does not apply to vehicles transporting bagged/containerized garbage or trash; rocks, soil, or vegetative material; or recyclable materials such as metal, glass, plastic, etc. For further information on solid waste handling, contact the Solid Waste Section in your Department Regulatory District office.
10. Chemical spills (i.e. fertilizer, pesticide, insecticides) in the vehicle payload areas should be cleaned with absorbents prior to vehicle washing. A "hazardous waste determination" pursuant to 40 CFR 262.11 may be required for the used absorbents so that they may be properly managed and disposed. For further information on this procedure, contact the Hazardous Waste Section in your Department Regulatory District office.

These management practices do not exempt Department staff from obtaining any other necessary permits from county or other local governmental agencies should they be required. Additionally, these management practices do not exempt park operators/managers from following other site specific management practices that may be required in order to meet Florida water quality standards.

For further information on vehicle washing contact the Industrial Wastewater Section in your Department Regulatory District office.