VT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

FACT SHEET

**Collecting & Disposing of Wastewater**

This fact sheet outlines best management practices regarding the proper collection and disposal of wastewater from campus activities including Dining Services, Housekeeping, and Research Laboratories.

Potential Pollutants:

* Pathogens
* Excess Nutrients
* Chlorine Compounds
* Hazardous Chemicals
* Cleaning Products
* Fats, Grease, Oil

**Containment Methods:**

* Equipment or material washing should be performed in a designated wash area designed to collect and hold wash water before discharging it into the sanitary sewer system. (*See Photo 1).*
* Contain wash water using absorbent socks or other containment methods if NOT in a designated wash area.
* Conduct any cleaning of oily materials, steam cleaning, or pressure washing inside a building or on a contained area, such as a containment pad. (*See Photos 2 and 3).*
* Collect wastewater in watertight storage containers, preferably with a firm-fitting lid.
* Wastewater with no hazardous chemicals may be directed to the sanitary sewer system – if hazardous chemicals are suspected, DO NOT wash down the sanitary sewer, contact EHS (540) 231- 3600 for further guidance and pickup.

**Disposal Methods:**

* All equipment and materials should be washed in the aforementioned designated areas.
* Wash water that does NOT contain toxic chemicals, may be disposed into the sanitary sewer system.
* If outdoor cleaning is absolutely necessary, wash equipment, materials, or containers over flat, grassy/pervious areas and away from watercourses and storm drains.

**Pollution Prevention Tips:**

* If floor drains are present, verify that they are not connected to the storm sewer system.
* Oil and grease should always be recycled and never dumped down storm drains or on the ground.
* Place waste materials/wash water inside rigid, durable, watertight and rodent proof containers with tight fitting covers. Storage containers should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.
* Toxic waste includes used cleaners, rags (soaked with solvents, floor cleaners, and detergents) and automotive products (such as antifreeze, brake fluid, radiator flush, and used batteries).
* Work sites should remain clean.
* Cover, repair, or replace leaky dumpsters and compactors. Rain can wash oil, grease and other substances into storm drains.
* Wash greasy equipment such as vents and mats in designated wash areas.

**NOTE:**

**Any hazardous chemicals (toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, and heavy metals) CANNOT be disposed in the sink, contact Environmental Health and Safety at (540) 231-3600 for pickup.**

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**Photo 2:** Example of a drip pan for use in laboratories and/or vehicle maintenance areas.

**Photo 1:** Example of a containment pad.

**Photo 3:** Example of a containment pad.