

- Pollution Prevention
- Pollution Control

Description

Practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to stormwater from vehicle and equipment cleaning by using off-site facilities whenever possible, or by conducting these operations in designated, protected areas.

Applicability

- This applies to all equipment and vehicles that are used for flood control activities and that require cleaning.

Approach and Standards

- Whenever possible, wash vehicles and equipment off-site where wash waters may be disposed of properly.
- When vehicle and equipment cleaning must occur on-site, and the operation cannot be located with treatment facilities and discharge to a sanitary sewer, the outside cleaning area should have the following characteristics:
 - ✓ Located away from storm drain inlets, drainage facilities, or channels.
 - ✓ Bermed to contain wash waters and to prevent runoff and runoff.
 - ✓ Configured wash area with a sump to allow collection and disposal of wash water.
 - ✓ Discharge water as dust control or to a pervious surface.
 - ✓ Wash waters shall not be discharged or allowed to flow to storm drains or channels.
 - ✓ Use the on-site cleaning area only when necessary.
- Refer to CU-8 for concrete or cement washout.

**Equipment &
Vehicles**

- Use as little water as possible to avoid having to install erosion and sediment controls for the wash area.
- Use phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps and then use the least amount necessary.
- Do not permit steam cleaning, unless the area is equipped with filtering devices. Do not permit the use of soap, solvents, or degreasers on-site. These particular items generate significant pollutant concentrations.

Limitations

- Even phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps have been shown to be toxic to fish before the soap degrades.
- Some municipalities may require pretreatment and monitoring of wash water discharges to the sanitary sewer. Contact the local wastewater authority for permission and direction prior to initiating cleaning activities.

Requirements

Maintenance

- Inspect regularly for erosion and sedimentation of the wash areas.
- Regularly service sumps associated with wash areas.

Costs

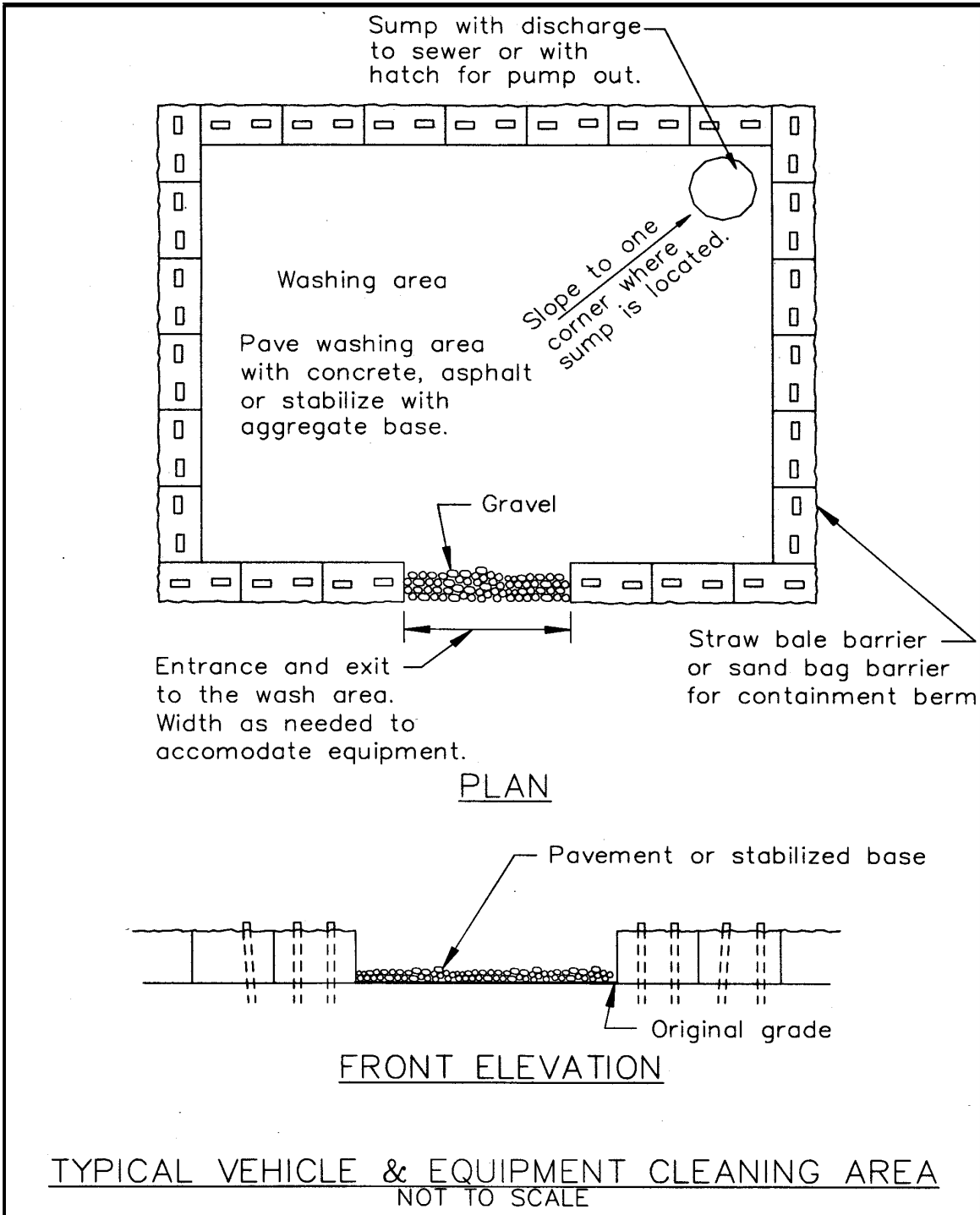
- Cleaning equipment at a commercial business can be economical by eliminating the need for a separate operation at your site.
- Staff time to create vehicle wash area, maintain sump, contact proper authorities.
- Material costs for berms, sumps, biodegradable soap, and aggregate, concrete or asphalt base.

Training

- Train employees on the proper disposal of wash waters.
- Educate employees and subcontractors on pollution prevention measures.

Equipment & Vehicles

Equipment & Vehicle Cleaning



Source: Caltrans, 1997.

References

California Code of Regulations, 1999.

California Storm Water Quality Task Force, *California Storm Water Best Management Practices Handbook Construction Activity*, CA 30, 1992.

Santa Clara Valley Water District, "BMP/PMM List," February, 1999.

Caltrans, *Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Construction Contractor's Guide and Specifications*, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, Woodward-Clyde, Aguilar Engineering, Psomas & Associates, MK Centennial, CD 18 (2), April 1997.