



INDUSTRIAL WASTE RESOURCE GUIDELINES

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND SERVICE PREMISES

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INTRODUCTION

This document provides owners, managers and employees in the motor vehicle repair industry with guidance for managing the different types of wastes generated on their premises in order to reduce the risk of pollution to the environment and improve resource efficiency. Eliminating or minimising waste is the best way to achieve these outcomes. For waste that cannot be avoided, reuse, recycling and energy recovery options are preferred where appropriate.

To prevent pollution of our waterways, waste such as grease, oil, detergent, paint, thinners, metals and litter must not enter storm water drains. Storm water drains are directly linked to waterways and waste such as oil causes major environmental problems when not managed appropriately. One litre of oil can contaminate up to one million litres of water.

MANAGING YOUR WASTE

Certain wastes that pose a potential risk to human health and the environment are known as **prescribed industrial wastes (PIWs)** in Victoria’s environment protection laws. The *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009* specify how PIW must be managed. Non-compliance with these Regulations may result in EPA enforcement action and prosecution.

Waste oils and used oil filters

Waste oils are prescribed industrial wastes. They include: used engine (sump) oil, gear oil, differential oil, automatic transmission fluid, brake fluid and other related products. Prior to collection by a contractor, they must be securely stored in good quality bulk tanks or 200 litre drums, in an enclosed (bunded) area, preferably under a roof, or on spill containment pallets or other self-bunded storage units. They must never be tipped down stormwater drains or sewers, tipped on to soil or burnt (only EPA licensed incinerators can be used to burn PIW).

Used oil filters are prohibited from disposal to landfill and must be recycled. They should be stored in drums for collection in the same way as waste oils.

Radiator fluid

Radiator fluid coolants often contain ethylene glycol and corrosion inhibitors. With a trade waste agreement with the local water authority, these liquids can be discharged to sewer. Otherwise they must be collected and disposed of as PIW.

Other wastes

Other PIW that may be generated from a motor vehicle repair and service premise include paint, solvent, fuels, and absorbent materials such as rags, sand and sawdust that are contaminated with solvents and oils.

Absorbent materials, provided they are free of liquid and do not display any hazardous characteristics, eg. non-flammable, are permitted to be disposed of to an appropriately licensed landfill, however there may be cheaper and better alternatives. Use the PIW Database (see below) to search for licensed waste receivers and their waste treatment options.

TRANSPORTING AND DISPOSING OF PIW

PIW must only be transported by a vehicle with a current EPA waste transport permit.

A waste transport certificate, completed by the waste producer, transporter and receiver, must accompany the load.

PIW can only be taken to a waste receiver that is licensed by EPA to receive that type of waste.

Find permitted transporters and licensed waste receivers through the PIW Database – www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/iwdb

This guidance forms part of the Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines, which offer guidance for wastes and resources regulated under the *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009*. Publication IWRG642 – June 2009.

Further information for transporting PIWs can be found at the Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines – Transport: www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/iwdb.

DEGREASING AND PARTS WASHING

Parts, engines and other large components can be degreased by washing or wiping them with rags that should then be stored separately in a bin or other container before being disposed of as PIW.

Washing must be done in an area where runoff is contained and the wash water disposed of in one of the following ways:

- to sewer, according to your trade waste agreement with your local water authority
- direct to a sump, where it can be collected by a contractor
- storing it in a drum or tank before transporting it to a licensed liquid recycling or treatment facility.

Labour and operating costs can be reduced by replacing solvent-based degreasing machines with aqueous water units which use biodegradable soap. Biodegradable products (like other waste) must not be disposed of down stormwater drains.

WASHING VEHICLES

When cleaning repaired vehicles, grease, filler and paint particles are washed off. New vehicles may need dewaxing. The washwater from these activities must not flow into storm water drains.

Options for cleaning

(See also vehicle washing and cleaning flow chart at the back of this document)

- Wipe the vehicle with a wet sponge or scratch resistant cloth and cleaning up the floor.
- Wash in a bunded or graded pavement area. Washwater from this area should flow into an interceptor pit or separator which discharges to sewer (with approval from your local water authority),
- Wash occasionally (no more than two cars per day) on a fully grassed absorbent area on your premises, using at least twenty square metres per vehicle per day.
- Wash on a gently sloping smooth pavement, where washings are collected and pumped by a suction tube boom into a portable interceptor tank. The advantage of this option is that occupiers of leased premises do not have to pay for a permanent installation.

Note that water use is subject to current water-saving rules and high-pressure wash guns must only be used in

areas where proper waste collection and disposal facilities exist.

BATTERIES

Used batteries should be stored undercover in a spill tray, then taken to metal recycling collection depots or sales outlets.

They should only be broken up, or have their contents tipped out, at facilities that specialise in this work.

SPRAY PAINTING

Spray painting must not be performed outdoors. It should be conducted in a proper booth, which has an exhaust fan, sealed windows and doorways, and a filtering or washing system.

Discharges should pass out of the premises via a vertical, open topped stack, which should be at least three metres higher than the highest roof level within fifteen metres. The exhaust velocity must be at least ten metres per second.

Filtering devices should be properly and regularly maintained.

Two pack type paints must only be used in water wash booths, with the accumulated sludge, waste paints and thinners/solvents collected and disposed of as PIW.

TYRES

Storage of tyres

The storage of tyres must be carried out in such a way as to not create a fire risk. The advice of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) or Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB) should be sought in this regard.

Generally the following minimum standards apply to tyre storage:

- Stockpiles must be segregated to a maximum area of 10x10 metres, with a minimum separation distance of 5 metres.
- The premises fire service to comply with Australian Standard (AS 2419.1) or be in accordance with the requirements of the CFA or MFB.
- The tyre storage area must be adequately bunded or contained so that, in the event of a fire, no contaminated water is allowed to escape beyond the property boundaries.

Disposal of tyres

Used tyres should be sent to a recycling plant or reused appropriately.

Licensed landfills can accept tyres only if shredded into pieces no greater than 250 mm.



AIR CONDITIONER AND CFC REFRIGERANT GASES

Vehicle air conditioners containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) must only be serviced by persons accredited by the Automotive Air Conditioning Registration Board. CFCs must be removed from air conditioners via a properly designed and operating recovery unit. Collected CFCs must be reused or provided to authorised recyclers.

Accredited service persons must observe an industry code of practice designed to minimise the release of CFCs to the atmosphere. Written records must be kept of CFC purchases, giving the name of CFCs, quantities and the seller's name and address.

GENERAL

- Permanent water saving rules in Victoria do not allow areas of paving, asphalt, brick, tiles, timber decking etc, to be cleaned with water from the mains supply, except under special circumstances, such as in the case of a fire or health hazard.
- Workshop floors should be sealed with an appropriate product that prevents the absorption of oils and other liquids, and makes cleaning easier. Stains can be removed using solvent on a rag.

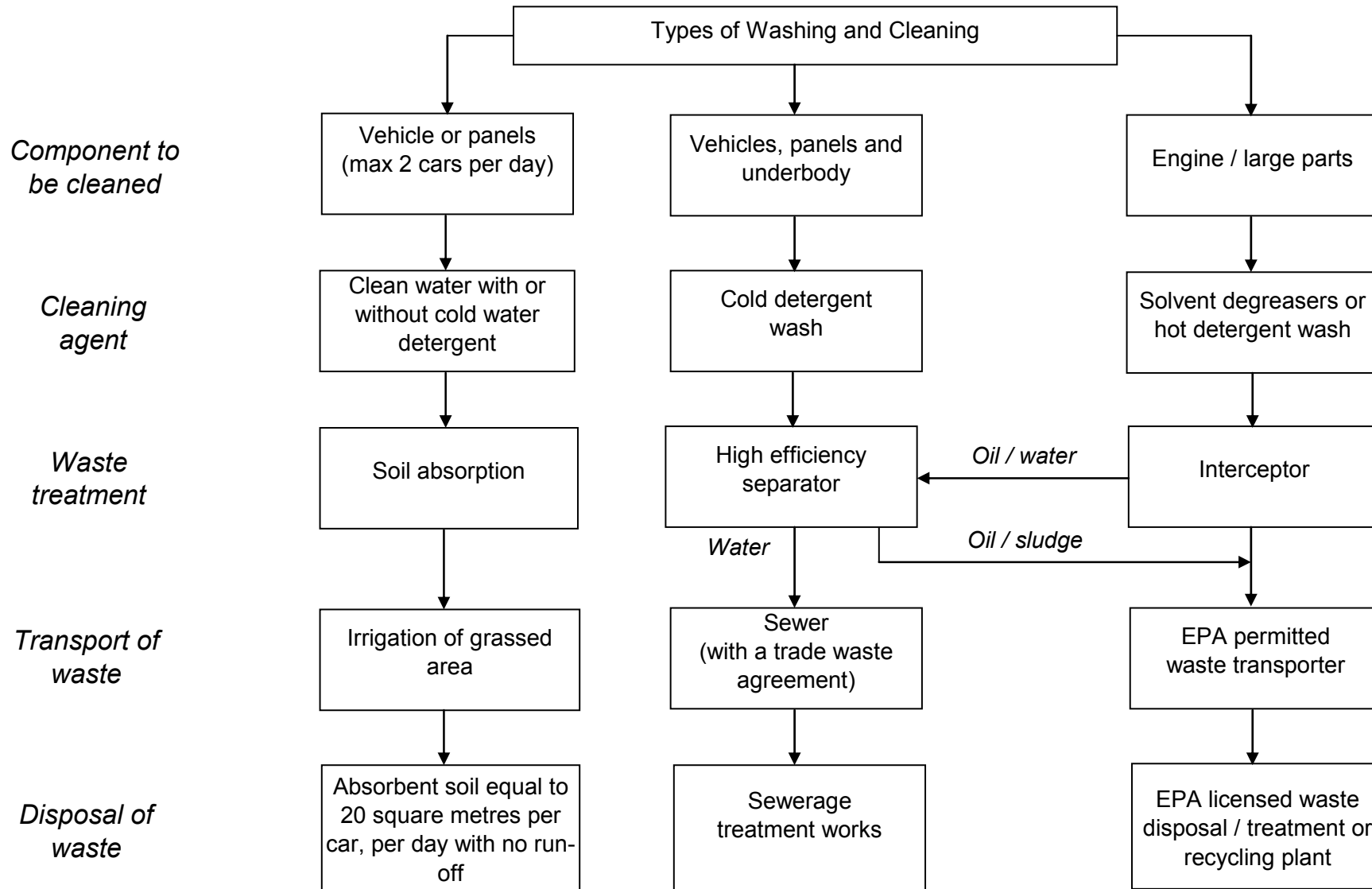
FURTHER INFORMATION

Waste transport, disposal and management

- EPA – Tel: 03 9695 2722
www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste

Metropolitan trade waste discharges to sewer, contact:

- South East Water – Trade Waste Officers
Tel: 03 9552 3662
- Yarra Valley Water Tel: 131 721
- City West Water Tel: 131 691
- or your local sewerage authority.



Vehicle washing and cleaning flow chart