CARWASH
CAR WORKSHOPS: A SERIOUS GAME APPROACH TO MANAGING WASTE CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS
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IO6-BEST PRACTICE:
“Correct handling, storage and disposal of effluent”

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to provide staff of the repair and service workshops, in order to correct bad habits with regards to paint works, and to guide for implementation of good environmental practices in the company.

This document lists risks and dangers arising from handling, storage and disposal of effluent, as well as recommendations for prevent accidents causing damage to human health and the environment.

The above mentioned material is considered hazardous waste, so these should be treated with special care during handling, storage and disposal. Here are some guidelines for that these processes are carried out in the safest way both for environmentally as for human health.

2. BASICS CONCEPT

Effluent: Trade effluent is any liquid waste (effluent), other than surface water and domestic sewage that is discharged from premises being used for a business, trade or industrial process.

Trade effluent can come from both large and small premises, including businesses such as car washes and launderettes. It can be effluent from the industrial or business process that is discharged into a public sewer, washed down a sink or toilet, or put into a private sewer that connects to the public sewer.

You will need to comply with legal restrictions regardless of how much trade effluent your business discharges.

Trade effluent may be waste water contaminated with materials such as:
- fats, oils and greases
- chemicals
- detergents
- heavy metal rinses
- solids
- food wastes

3. CONTENT: CORRECT HANDLING, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF PAINTS

When you are planning chemical storage areas, you should carefully consider how you store, handle and take delivery of chemicals at your site.

3.1 Handling

If your business produces trade effluent there are a number of ways that this can be managed.

- If possible you should connect to a public sewer. This is the best option for treatment and disposal of trade effluent. If no public sewer is available you should look at connecting to the public sewer using a private sewer. You will still need a trade effluent consent or trade effluent agreement with your sewerage provider.
- Effluent that your sewerage provider will not accept. If you produce trade effluent that will damage the sewer, or would create risks for workers or the public you will not be able to discharge it to a public sewer. If your effluents are unsuitable for discharging to the public sewer, or there is no public sewer available, you could:
  - change your process so you do not produce the effluent or certain substances
- treat the effluent on site before discharging it to a sewer
- pay for it to be taken away for off-site treatment.

- Discharge to land. If no public sewer is available you must look at ways of treating your trade effluent before discharging it to land via a soakaway. Discharging treated effluent to land provides an extra level of treatment and is a better option than discharge to water. You will need an authorisation before you can discharge your trade effluent to land. You will have to achieve a suitable level of treatment before any discharge will be permitted.
- Treating your trade effluent. If you need to treat effluent before discharging it, you can use package treatment plants or septic tanks. Package treatment plants are generally more effective than septic tanks and achieve a higher quality of treatment. Where possible this should be connected to a soakaway, rather than directly to a watercourse.

### 3.2 Risks of handling

You must have permission from your water and sewerage company before you discharge any trade effluent to the public sewer. The following measures will help you to minimise the chances of making any discharges accidentally.

**Keep a drainage plan of your site:**

Make sure you have an up-to-date and accurate drainage plan of your site. This will help you identify the locations of all the drains and sewers and where they lead.

You should discharge all trade effluent and sewage to the public sewer. Only discharge clean, uncontaminated water to the surface water drainage system.

Paint the drainage system manhole covers, gullies and grills on your site in the recognised colour-coding system - blue for surface water drains and red for foul water drains, or combined drains. This will help you identify where any spills will end up.

**Manage your materials and practices effectively**

Investigate alternative materials and practices that do not produce effluents, eg reuse water for rinsing and cleaning where possible.

Store and handle raw materials, wastes, chemicals and fuels responsibly, so that they cannot enter the surface water and foul water drains on your site.

Keep spill kits near to where you might need them with clear instructions for their use. Make sure your staff know where they are and how to use them.

Spill kits might contain:

- absorbent materials, eg sand
- containment equipment, eg booms
- pumps and suction equipment
- pipe blockers
- drain mats.

Make an inventory of all the equipment and materials you have on site.
4. **RECALL**

Activities that produce run-off from the vehicle onto the ground and use cleaning and valeting products should be carried out in areas that are clearly marked and isolated from surface water drainage systems, unmade ground and porous surfaces. These areas are called designated washing bays.

A designated washing bay should be designed so that run-off is:

- isolated using channels, gullies, gradient (fall on the surface) and kerbs
- directed to a silt trap or settlement tank to remove larger particles of silt and sediment
- either collected in a sealed system for reuse, discharged to the public foul sewer with prior permission
- of the local sewer provider or collected in a sealed system for authorised disposal

You should also:

- have procedures for everyone, including contractors, that cover where and how vehicle washing and cleaning should be carried out and what to do in a spillage emergency
- provide notices for designated washing bays saying what they’re for and that washing and cleaning should only be carried out in the bay
- consider whether a fence or barrier is required to prevent spray or wind drift out of the designated area
- have procedures and equipment which minimises water use and solid waste production