



DWR – NPDES-SOP – G – 16 –Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Handbook–01092026

Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Handbook

3.4.3 Tire Washing



Source: TNWRRC

Definition and Purpose

Tire washing refers to an established station for washing tires and undercarriages prior to construction traffic exiting the construction site. In addition to construction exits, tire washing helps reduce mud, dirt, and sediment tracking onto public roads.

Appropriate Applications

Tire washing facilities are used in combination with construction exits when gravel construction exits do not provide sufficient dirt, mud, and sediment removal from construction equipment. Tire washes are not necessary in all cases but may be ideal for sites located in sensitive areas or where additional sediment control measures are necessary.

Limitations and Maintenance

Remove accumulated sediment in the tire wash rack and surrounding sediment control measures as necessary to maintain system performance. Inspect routinely for damage and repair as needed. This application may require a turnaround or doublewide exit to prevent vehicles from driving through the wash area (CalTrans, 2017).

Using soaps or solvents for vehicle and equipment washing is not covered under the CGP and is prohibited from discharging.



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Planning and Design Criteria

A reliable water supply is essential for most tire washing techniques, which can be provided through an overhead tank, pressurized tank, water pipeline, or other means. Wash water must be directed to a sediment trapping device, such as a sediment basin or sediment trap, before being discharged offsite to prevent contamination. Runoff from the wash area may require conveyance to sediment controls or trapping devices via a drainage ditch of appropriate grade, width, and depth. If chlorinated water, such as tap water or hydrant water, is used, runoff should be detained at a minimum of 24 hours before discharge. Pool test kits can be used to test the chlorine content of the water.

There are various methods for tire washing, such as flooded basin, countercurrent channel, low-pressure inundation, and high-pressure cleaning, any of which may be implemented based on which will work best for site-specific or economic constraints.

Example Application

No formal design or quantities are required for this measure and therefore are not presented here.

References

- CalTrans. (2017). *Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual*.
- City of Knoxville. (2003). *Best Management Practices Manual*.