

## VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT WASHING

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(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)

Vehicles and large pieces of equipment need cleaning for a variety of reasons. When washing these items at UNL, certain environmental regulations may apply to the wash water that is generated.

Whenever possible, use a commercial wash facility or the wash bay at City Campus Transportation Services. These locations are connected to the sanitary sewer and have traps to collect dirt and oils.

If a commercial wash facility is not available or realistic, use interior areas with drains that connect to the sanitary sewer. Detergents can be used when washing. Do not use normal interior drains, if:

1. The vehicle/equipment is very dirty/muddy as the dirt/mud can plug drains. This is not an issue if a mud trap is present.
2. The vehicle/equipment is coated with oil to the point that it will cause a sheen in the wash water. Wash water discharged to a sanitary sewer can not have a sheen. This is not an issue if an oil/grease trap is present.

Washing vehicles/equipment outside has significant limitations. Detergents can not be used. There can not be any discharge of the wash water to the storm sewer as it will contain any contaminants removed from the vehicle/equipment. As a result, washing vehicles/equipment outside is generally limited to well maintained vehicles/equipment washed on grassed areas and solely for the removal of dirt, mud, grass clippings, and other plant debris.

If the vehicle/equipment needs to be cleaned for reasons other than those described above, contact Environmental Health & Safety for guidance.