



## BMPs for Laundry Facilities

The Best Management Practices (BMP) Program for laundry facilities is a program designed to address the wastewater discharges from laundry operations/activities into the sewer system. This BMP is an important component of an overall plan for minimizing sanitary sewer overflows, protecting the City-Parish treatment plant and the environment. The City-Parish thus require the facilities to obtain an Industrial User Discharge Permit, and the permit is driven by the policies and BMPs found in this document.

Though the following guidance items may be performed by an independent contractor it is ultimately the responsibility of the facility owner to ensure all guidance items are satisfactorily completed. The owner shall be responsible for training the staffs of these best management practices for the facility.

### Best Management Practices:

- **Empty washing machine lint.** Accumulated lint should be composted or bagged and disposed as solid waste and not the sink. The management should ensure to witness the cleaning every time. All of the lint material is removed and lint trap put back into service properly. All lint trap cleaning activities shall be recorded in a log book for future reference.
- **Chemical Storage and control.** Laundry facilities may use a host of chemicals that can be categorized as acids, alkali, oxidizers, solvents or other organics. For proper storage please refer to Table 1. The management should keep and record file all the Material Safety Data Sheets.
  - *Acids Examples* include sulphuric acid, oxalic acid, acetic acid, sours.
  - *Alkalis Examples* include sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) and sodium carbonate (soda ash), potassium hydroxide, ammonia-based cleaners (contain ammonium hydroxide).
  - *Oxidizers Examples* include chlorine-based chemicals such as chlorine bleach (sodium or calcium hypochlorite), hydrogen peroxide or organic peroxides.
  - *Solvents Include* perchloroethylene, varsol, paint thinners.
  - *Other Organics* Detergents, paints, oils, etc.

**Table 1: Chemical Incompatibilities Relative to Storage**

	Acids	Alkalis	Oxidizers	Solvents	Organics	Chlorine	Ammonia
Acids		X				X	
Alkalis	X		X				
Oxidizers		X		X	X	X	
Solvents			X				
Organics			X				
Chlorine	X		X				X
Ammonia						X	

**Legend: X = Do Not Store Together**

- **Spill control and reporting.** Chemical spills at laundry facilities can have disastrous impacts on downstream treatment systems and the environment. Operators should take all precautions to isolate spills from floor drains or other sewer systems. Spills should be cleaned up using nonreactive sorbent materials, which should then be bagged and disposed of safely by alerting the solid waste contractor. Report spills that enter the sewer system immediately so that treatment plant staff may take appropriate action to isolate the wastewater before it enters the treatment plant.
- **Client relationships and soiled incoming goods.** Laundry owners should work closely with commercial clients that use shop rags or uniforms that may contain solvents, oil or other chemicals.
- **Inspection of floor drains.** Floor drains, drip pans and sewer lines should be inspected frequently for corrosion and repaired or replaced as needed.
- **Good housekeeping practices**
  - Choose dry cleaning methods. Eliminate hosing down the site unless all wash water is contained and disposed of to a sanitary sewer system. *Note that some wash water especially those that contain significant amounts of pollutants may not be allowed to be disposed in the sewer system.*
  - Sweeping of paved areas is a dry cleaning method that helps prevent trash, debris, and particulate matter such as dirt from accumulating on paved surfaces and being carried to the sewer drain.
  - Reduce the use of toxic materials. Substitute non-toxic or less toxic cleaning materials and solvents, use non-caustic and phosphate-free detergents, water-based degreasers, non-chlorinated solvents, when possible.
  - Check washer hoses and connectors for leaks, repair or replace as needed.
  - Keep a maintenance log and record all waste and maintenance-related activities. Record lint trap inspection and note the volume of lint removed during service when possible.

**Resources:**

Medina County Recycling Center. "Homeowner Best Management Practices." City of Waldsworth Engineering Department, n.d. Web.

Ontario Laundry Industry Task Force. "Environmental Code of Management Practice for Laundry Operations", July 1996

<http://www.goodyearaz.gov/home/showdocument?id=10980>, Date Accessed: October 31, 2016