

Source Control Program for Mobile Cleaners

Frequently Asked Questions

How many mobile cleaners are in the Bay Area?

- Approximately 4,000 mobile cleaning businesses (1995)
- Includes surface cleaners, janitorial services, auto detailers, carpet cleaners and window washers

Who are “Surface Cleaners?”

- A subset of mobile cleaners who clean flat surfaces or “flat work”
- Flat surfaces include:
 - Sidewalks, plazas, building exteriors, drive-through areas, cement parking areas and driveways, decks
 - Restaurants and food handling establishments - dumpster/grease cleaning and storage areas
 - Surface preparation activities prior to painting and graffiti removal
- Approximately 150 to 200 surface cleaners in the Bay Area.

Why are mobile surface cleaning activities difficult to deal with?

- Variable quantity and quality of the discharge
- Occasional nature of the discharge
- Mobility of the discharger

Why are mobile cleaner discharges a concern?

- One of the goals of the federal storm water regulations and NPDES storm water permits –
 - “Effectively Prohibit” non-stormwater discharges to storm drain systems.
 - Wash waters are commonly observed non-storm water discharges.

Why are mobile cleaner discharges a concern? (cont'd)

- Mobile cleaners have been identified as a significant discharger of material, wastes, and polluted waters to storm drain systems in the San Francisco Bay area and other parts of the USA.

What information or data is there on these types of discharges?

- In 1999, study of surface cleaner discharges was discharged. Study looked at discharges from local cleaners and data from Texas and Arizona
- **Results – Bay Area**
 - The volume of wastewater discharged by surface cleanings is small.
 - Samples indicated the presence of cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, zinc, oil and grease, and total petroleum hydrocarbons.
 - In some instances, concentrations violated discharge standards for wastewater treatment (“local limits”).

What information or data is there on these types of discharges? (cont'd)

● **Results – Texas**

- Data Review (Texas) - Indicated the presence of detergents in over 50 % of the samples collected from storm drain discharges.
- Repeated field observations identified mobile cleaning activities as a significant source.

What best management practice (BMP) sources are available and acceptable?

- Two sources:
 - Cleaning Equipment Trade Association (CETA)
 - *CETA BMPs* – Original BMPs
 - BASMAA - *Pollution from Surface Cleaning*
 - Small changes to the *CETA BMPs* for some surface cleaning activities
 - Clarify and simplify decision making for cleaners while on job sites.

What is the Source Control Program for Mobile Cleaners?

- A regional program initiated by BASMAA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board
- An outreach-based program designed to:
 - Help break through barriers to pollution control
 - Establish a model for addressing mobile surface cleaning discharges
 - Resolve problems through involvement and education of affected parties
 - Emphasize recognition of good businesses versus “bad actors”

Why was an outreach and recognition approach chosen to address mobile cleaner discharges?

- Discharges from mobile cleaners are:
 - Occasional in nature
 - Often small (few hundred gallons)
 - May occur during non-business hours
 - Difficult to regulate in the traditional sense
- A successful program should include as much education for customers of mobile cleaners (since they are also liable for discharges)
 - Ensures the value of hiring a responsible cleaner

How does a surface cleaner get recognition?

- Complete Recognition Training Program
 - Available from selected stormwater programs, municipalities and wastewater treatment plants in the San Francisco Bay Area.
 - Individuals interested in training should contact BASMAA or refer to the list of trainers involved in BASMAA's Surface Cleaner Recognition Program.

What does the recognition mean?

- Receive blue “Certificate of Training”
- Indicates that the surface cleaner has:
 - Received training
 - Taken a self quiz on the training materials
 - “Agrees to follow, to the greatest practical extent, pollution prevention practices including techniques for proper cleaning and wash water disposal as described in the BASMAA mobile cleaner’s training materials.”

How do I find “Recognized Mobile Cleaners?”

- BASMAA – maintains database of recognized mobile cleaners
- Database is available to municipalities and potential customers
- Why request a copy of the database?
 - Municipalities – to promote recognized cleaners
 - Potential customers – when soliciting bids for cleaning jobs
- Further questions, please call Geoff Brosseau (BASMAA) at 510-622-2326.