

Oil/Sand Separator Best Management Practices Manual (BMP)



Utilities Department
Pretreatment Section

This manual was written to provide automotive business managers and owners with pollution prevention techniques, effective in both reducing maintenance costs, and preventing oil/sand discharges to the sewer system.

Knowledgeable municipal pretreatment staff, working with business owners, can effectively prevent oil/sand buildup, and associated problems.

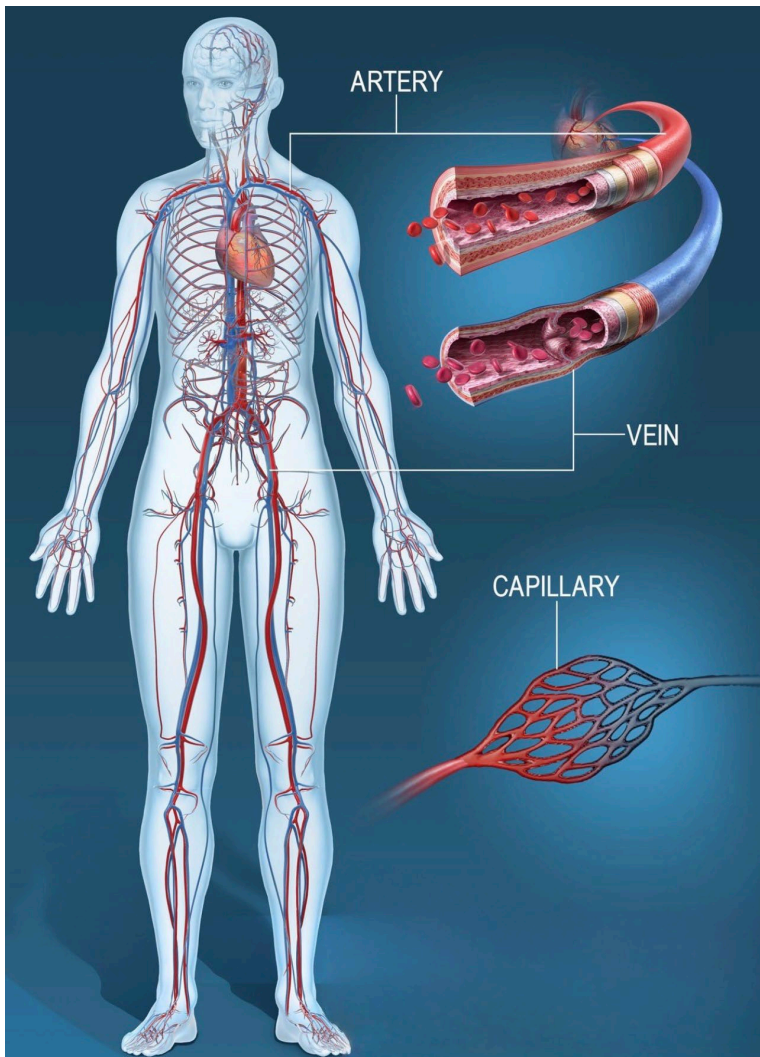
If you have questions, please call the City of Yuma Pretreatment Section at (928) 373-4600.

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Why is Oil a Problem?

A wastewater system is similar to the human body. Wastewater flows through pipes (arteries), is pumped at pump stations (heart) and is cleaned by the wastewater plant (kidneys).



Oil clogs the pipes in the sewer system just like cholesterol clogs arteries. This makes the pumps work harder and can cause them to fail, just like having a heart attack.

Oil can cause backups in your sewer lines that can send sewage into your home or business and that is an open invitation for disease and illnesses.

BMP #1: Train Your People



Train staff about how they can help ensure the Best Management Practices (BMPs) are implemented.

Reason:

People are more willing to support an effort when they understand the basis for it.

Benefits to Your Establishment:

All the subsequent benefits of Best Management Practices will have a better chance of being implemented.

BMP #2: AUTOMOBILE SERVICING



Maintenance and repair work should be done only in designated, contained areas to prevent spills from reaching sewer system. Always use drip pans, tarps, or ground cloths to capture leaks, spills, and properly dispose.

Reason:

Containment prevents oil from reaching the oil/sand separator.

Benefits to Your Establishment:

These practices will help with your oil/sand separator from becoming overloaded and working effectively.

BMP #3: PARTS CLEANING



Whenever possible, clean vehicle parts and tools in a parts washer device. Routinely inspect equipment for leaks, and reuse cleaning solutions whenever feasible.

Reason:

This will contain all the oil in the container and prevent it from entering the sewer system.

Benefits to Your Establishment:

These practices will help with your oil/sand separator from becoming overloaded and working effectively.

BMP #4: WASTE HANDLING



Properly manage waste by labeling all containers, keeping them sealed, and storing them indoors or under cover to prevent rain exposure and spills from reaching storm or sewer systems.

Reason:

Keeping oil in a location where rain can't get to it, will help it from overspilling.

Benefits to Your Establishment:

Your device will be free of oil.

BMP #5: CLEANING FLOORS



Use dry cleaning methods, such as sweeping or vacuuming, to prevent pollutants from entering drains. When liquid cleaners are necessary, select biodegradable products. If water is used, limit the volume to avoid overloading the oil/sand separator. Where applicable, utilize oil-absorbing tools, such as oleophilic mops, to capture oils without spreading contamination.

Reason:

Using a dry-cleaning method will reduce the chances of overloading your oil/sand separator.

Benefits to Your Establishment:

It will elongate the frequency in which you have to clean it.

BMP #6: Witness Oil/Sand Separator Cleaning



Witness the cleaning of the oil/sand separator, to ensure the device is properly operating.

Reason:

Pumping contractors may at times take operational shortcuts. When the establishment personnel inspect the cleaning process and verify that the work has been completed thoroughly, it provides greater assurance that the service has been performed properly.

Benefits to Your Establishment:

Without proper oversight, the establishment may incur unnecessary expenses by scheduling cleanings more frequently than required.

BMP #7: Keep a Maintenance Log and All Service Records

DATE	CLEANED BY	WITNESSED BY	GALLONS PUMPED	RECIPT (YES/NO)	REMARKS

The log serves as a record of the frequency and volume of cleaning of the oil/sand separator(s).

Reason:

It is required by the pretreatment program to ensure that separator maintenance is performed on a regular basis.

Benefits to Your Establishment:

The maintenance log serves as a record of cleaning frequency and can help the establishment manager optimize cleaning frequency to reduce cost.