
Guideline Aircraft and Vehicle Washing



Scope

Water used to wash aircraft contains detergents and traces of oils, hydrocarbons and solvents. These substances are pollutants and must not be allowed to enter stormwater drains. Pollutants entering the stormwater network eventually make their way out to vegetated drains, creeks, and the ocean where they cause damage to plant and animal life.



The Airport (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997 require operators at the airport to take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent pollution.

This guideline covers washing of both engines and airframes (whether entire or in parts) and ground service vehicles.

Aircraft are preferably to be washed in hangars or other spaces where polluted wash water can be directed straight to sewer. However, this is not often feasible and, in the absence of a dedicated aircraft washbay at Adelaide Airport, and only one available at Parafield Airport, it is accepted that aircraft will need to be washed whilst on stand.

Aircraft are not to be washed on grassed or unsealed areas under any circumstances.

Waterless washing is strongly encouraged where feasible.

Aircraft Washing

- Use a high pressure, low volume hose
- Use a biodegradable, phosphate free detergent
- Use the minimal amount of detergent
- Wastewater is to be recovered from aircraft washing using bunding equipment and a wet vacuum or similar equipment
- Operators must dispose of wash water at a dedicated disposal point fitted with a separator/grease arrestor and covered by a current Trade Waste Permit from SA Water, or, a suitable location off airport in accordance with SA Water requirements
- Operators are to ensure they have a SA Water Level 3 Water Restriction Permit for aircraft washing (when restrictions are in place). Application forms can be downloaded from the SA Water website.
- Operators must have Safety Data Sheet information readily available for products used in washing
- All employees must be trained on how to wash aircraft in accordance with *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2013* and these environmental guidelines.

Vehicle Washing

- Vehicles are to be washed in a purpose-built vehicle washbay fitted with a separator/grease arrestor and SA Water approved connection to sewer, with a current Trade Waste Permit. However if the operator does not have access to a washbay then vehicles are to be washed on a sealed area and wastewater collected for disposal to sewer.
- Engine degreasing is not to be undertaken on aprons. A purpose built vehicle washbay is to be used for this activity or alternatively degreasing is to be done off airport.

Monitoring

Operators should be aware that AAL staff will monitor aircraft and vehicle washing for compliance with this guideline.

For further information please contact the AAL Environment Department on 8308 9211 or environment@aal.com.au.

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