

# MCB Camp Pendleton Environmental Standard Operating Procedure



13 July 2020

## Washracks and Oil/Water Separators

In accordance with MCIWEST-MCB CAMPENO 11345.1 dated 27 November 2017, unit Environmental Compliance Coordinators (ECC) are responsible for maintaining washracks, pressure washers, and oil/water separators (OWS) in a good working condition in order to prevent an unauthorized release to the environment. The purpose of this document is to provide you with information about these systems, restrictions on usage, as well as information on who to call when these systems require service or repair.

### What's an Oil/Water Separator?

An OWS is a wastewater pretreatment system designed to remove oil and sediment (i.e., sand, dirt, grit) from water. Washracks aboard MCB Camp Pendleton are equipped with OWSs to remove oil and sediment from vehicle and equipment washwater before it is discharged into the Base's sanitary sewer system. This oil and sediment can negatively affect the performance of the Base's sewage collection and treatment systems. Additionally, oil that ends up in the Base's Sewage Treatment Plants contaminates the sewage sludge these plants produce, resulting in expensive disposal costs.

OWSs use gravity to separate oil and sediment from washwater. As the washwater flows slowly through the OWS, sediment settles to the bottom of the OWS while oil floats to the top. The image below is a schematic of the typical OWS installed at MCB Camp Pendleton.

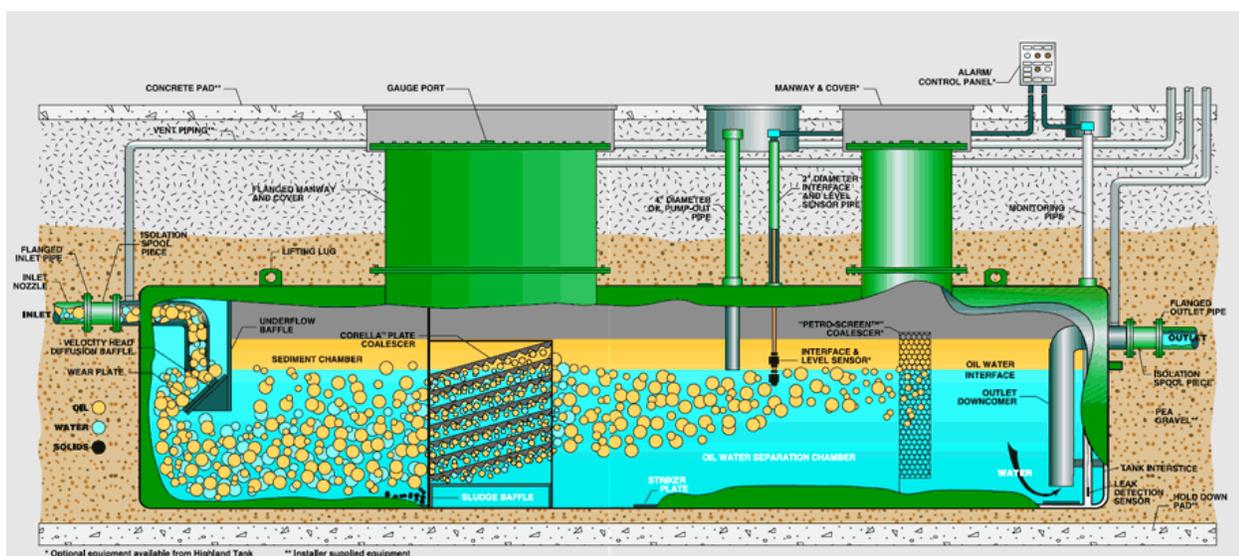


Figure 1 – Oil/Water Separator Schematic

In order for an OWS to operate properly and effectively, proper use of vehicle and equipment washracks is essential and the OWS must be periodically cleaned and maintained. This document will describe how to do both.

## Washrack Operations Requirements

It is imperative that your command follow these guidelines to ensure proper operation of the OWS and protection of the environment.

### DO

- Inspect your washrack on a weekly basis using the designated inspection form. Document the inspection in a logbook. An example logbook format is provided at the end of this ESOP.
- Submit a work request and notify the proper individuals when the OWS or pressure washers need service or maintenance.
- Ensure spill kit materials are easily accessible in case of leaks or spills.
- Use dry methods (i.e., rags or dry-sweep) to remove liquids from equipment, shipping containers, drain pans, and vehicle hulls prior to washing.

### DON'T

- Do not dump or dispose of anything on the washrack.
- Do not use any kind of detergent, soap, or cleaning product while washing vehicles or equipment. Detergent and soap cause the oil to pass through the OWS.
- Do not wash POL laden engines or oily parts on the washrack.
- Do not park or store vehicles, equipment, or supplies on the washrack (unless the vehicles are being washed).
- Do not perform maintenance on vehicles or equipment on the washrack.
- Do not rinse out fuel tanks, sixcons, jerry cans or other fuel containers on the washrack.\*  
\* Fuel containers can be cleaned by contacting your unit's hazardous waste disposal representative.

## ECC Responsibilities

Per MCIWEST-MCB CAMPENO 11345.1, Environmental Compliance Coordinators (ECC) are responsible for the operation and maintenance of all washracks and OWSs in their area. Specifically:

1. Conduct and document a weekly inspection of the OWS using a SludgeJudge™ or similar device to measure the depth of sediment and oil in the OWS. Inspections should be documented in a green field notebook and available for review upon request.
2. Initiate a service call to clean out the OWS when the accumulation of sediment is greater than six inches or when the accumulation of oil is greater than three inches.
3. Ensure that all manholes and access hatches are accessible and can be opened for inspections.
4. Ensure that washrack drains are clean of sand and sediment. Sand and sediment should be removed and placed in drums for storage until full. Full drums should be managed as hazardous waste.
5. Ensure that the washrack is kept free of trash and debris.
6. Prohibit the following:

- a. The use of detergents, soaps, degreasers, or any other cleaning chemicals on the washrack.
- b. The storage of vehicles, equipment, or chemicals on the washrack.
- c. The dumping of any substances into the washrack.

Most importantly, educate the people in your command about the requirements of washrack use.

## Maintenance, Repairs, and Service

OWSs. In the event that your OWS inspection shows sediment depth greater than six inches or oil accumulation greater than three inches, or in the event that the washrack drains are clogged or standing water is present on the washrack, unit ECCs shall submit a work request through their S-4 that the OWS requires cleaning.

The following information shall be submitted on the work request:

- Name and location of unit
- Inches of oil and sediment

In addition to submitting a work request through your S-4, notify the Environmental Security Hazardous Waste Section, via email ([PNDL\\_ENV-Hazardous-Waste@usmc.mil](mailto:PNDL_ENV-Hazardous-Waste@usmc.mil)) or by calling (760) 725-4375.

Pressure Washers. Most of the washracks on the Base are equipped with pressure washers. In the event that the pressure washers at your facility are out of operation, leaking, or require other service, submit a work request to your S-4 and notify the Facilities Service Contracts person listed below. To replace the hoses and wands, it is the tenant's responsibility to procure such items thru serve-mart or similar outlet.

Closed-Loop Washracks. Some washracks on Base discharge to a closed-loop recycling system instead of an OWS. If your facility has a closed-loop system and it requires service or maintenance, submit a work request to your S-4 and contact:

Mr. Chris Abello  
Facilities Service Contracts  
[chris.abello@usmc.mil](mailto:chris.abello@usmc.mil)  
(760) 763-8192

## Wastewater Source Control Pretreatment Program

This environmental standard operating procedure was developed as part of the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Wastewater Source Control Pretreatment Program (SCPP). This program is managed by the Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD). The purpose of this program is to identify and where possible, eliminate or minimize pollutants and contaminants entering the Base's sewer system. As part of the SCPP, FMD conducts quarterly site visits to inspect the condition of the washracks and OWSs and to provide onsite basic awareness training for the commands and organizations that operate washracks. Also during these site visits, your OWS logbook will be reviewed to ensure weekly inspections are being conducted.

