



Oil Water Separators and Sand Trap Tips

Your Hillsborough County Water Department Industrial Pretreatment staff is here to help you maintain compliance with local wastewater discharge requirements. Here are a few tips and guidelines to help you be successful as you operate your automotive repair, oil change, or carwash business in Hillsborough County.

How often should I have my separator/trap serviced? That all depends on a few different factors: size of the oil water separator and sand trap, volume of business, and housekeeping practices in your place of business. Typically, a car wash facility with a 1000 gallon separator is serviced once every six months, but if your device is smaller, you may have to have it serviced more frequently than twice a year.

What does the County allow before I have to have my separator or sand trap serviced? Once your separator has accumulated 25 percent of its wetted depth in petroleum-based wastes (oil, fuel, sand, and/or solvents) you will need to call your selected vendor for servicing of the device. However, regularly scheduled servicing is your best bet to stay in compliance. Most vendors will gladly set up a regular service schedule for you.

Who should I call for service? The Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) offers a list of recycling sources/vendors on their website www.epchc.org or email EPC staff: epcinfo@epchc.org If you do not have internet access, please ask the inspector for a copy of the list from EPC.

Your vendor should be licensed and authorized to transport and dispose of petroleum-based wastes. You should receive a manifest (receipt) for the service which should indicate that the waste has been disposed of in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

For more information on servicing your oil water separator, please contact your Hillsborough County Water Department Pretreatment Staff Member at 813-274-6800