

# Best Management Practices for Toxic Organics

The San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility serves the cities of San José, Santa Clara and Milpitas; Cupertino Sanitary District; West Valley Sanitation District (including Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga); County Sanitation Districts 2-3; and Burbank Sanitary District.

Toxic organics are widely used for industrial and commercial purposes including degreasing, controlling viscosity, dry wipe cleaning, printing inks, lubricants, paint removers, lacquers, dyes and pharmaceuticals. Toxic organics contaminate air, water and soil if not appropriately managed. They cause toxicity in biological wastewater treatment, deteriorate effluent quality, release toxic vapors, and threaten worker safety. Proper management of toxic organics and toxic-organics waste can help prevent accidents, reduce worker exposure, and lower the risk of environmental liability. These best management practices (BMPs) are designed to help businesses manage toxic-organics use and waste and stay in compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

## Alternate Chemistry

- Replace high hazard toxic organics with ecofriendly alternatives like aqueous based solutions and volatile methyl siloxanes (VMS) that are less toxic, biodegradable or can be distilled for reuse.

## Engineering Controls

- Dry clean the parts to remove heavy debris with sandpaper a wire brush and paper towels to reduce use of toxic organics. Only clean parts and items with toxic organics when it is necessary.
- Accept parts that have been pre-wiped and are free of toxic organics.
- Equipment using toxic organics must be maintained to operate and run efficiently to prevent workers' exposure and accidental release of toxic organics.
- Have a designated area for toxic organics use, preferably indoor and under cover and ventilated, e.g. chemical fume hood or under local exhaust ventilation.
- Seal or remove floor drains in areas where toxic organics are used to prevent accidental discharges to the sewer.
- Ensure wastewater containing toxic organics does not enter the sanitary sewer via sinks, toilets or drains. Wastewater containing toxic organics should be drummed and shipped offsite to a hazardous waste facility by a licensed hazardous waste transporter.
- Provide secondary containment in toxic organics storage areas and under waste storage containers. Secondary containment must be of appropriate impermeable material. Catch drippings of toxic organics in drip pans or trays when repairing equipment. Use funnels when transferring waste to storage containers.



Environmental Services

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## Housekeeping

- Adequately train staff in chemical handling and correct points of use and disposal.
- Ensure toxic organics and toxic organics waste are stored in proper containers that are in good condition and tightly sealed with no signs of leaks or deterioration.
- Equipment and storage containers must be regularly inspected to check for leaks, dents, bulges or corrosion. Repair or replace leaking or damaged components in a timely manner.
- Segregate toxic organics and toxic organics waste away from incompatible materials and store them in a cabinet for flammable chemicals. Do not mix different wastes together that could create fires, leaks or other releases.
- Prepare and maintain an emergency response plan/spill response plan that is easily accessible on what to do in the case of a spill or other emergency.
- Have an easily accessible spill kit with supplies, equipment and personal protective equipment needed to respond to spills and emergencies (e.g., absorbent materials, fire extinguishers, goggles and gloves).

## Labelling

- Clearly label each container used for storing waste containing toxic organics with the name and type of waste and the waste collection start date.
- Place signs on sinks and drains that state, "Do not pour any toxic organics-contaminated wastewater down sinks, toilets or drains."

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