

Environment Information Sheet 7

Aircraft Washing

All aircraft washing must occur at a designated Aircraft Wash Area

Background

Runoff from aircraft washing contains detergents and materials washed from the aircraft including sediment and traces of hydrocarbons (oil, fuel, grease, solvents). All of these materials are pollutants and must not be discharged to stormwater.

Although many detergents are biodegradable, they are categorised as a pollutant within natural waterways because they require time to break down.



The law and what this means for you at a Sydney Metro Airport

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

The Regulations define water pollution as 'something that causes or is reasonably like to cause the physical, chemical or biological condition of waters to be adversely affected' and establishes limits for a variety of contaminants, including surfactants (detergents) in water.

Aircraft washing on apron areas, vehicle washing on roadways and tipping wash water down stormwater drains and pits all contribute detergent and other pollutants to stormwater and is prohibited.

Where can you wash your aircraft at the airport?

Aircraft may only be washed in a designated aircraft wash area on airport. At Bankstown Airport there is a public aircraft wash area to the west of taxiway X-ray and south of taxiway Alpha 3 (Refer the photographs over-page).

The area provides a concrete pad located a safe distance from storm water drains, and has water and a hose.

ENVIRONMENT

Alternately you may wish to create an approved aircraft wash area at your premises. To do so you will need to provide an area where you can capture and;

- dispose the wash water to sewer (you will need a Trade Waste Licence from Sydney Water to do so); or
- pump out the wash water and have it disposed “off-airport” by an appropriately licensed contractor.

Aircraft may NOT be washed on any other hardstand area on the Airport.



Precautions you can take to protect the environment

Before you commence, check with Sydney Water to establish if water restrictions are in place and whether you need an exemption for washing your aircraft. Refer to the Sydney Water website at www.sydneywater.com.au or call 13 20 92.

Use a biodegradable detergent and apply the minimum quantity necessary for the job. This will help the detergent to breakdown more quickly.

Save water by using the minimum amount necessary; and switch the tap off when you are not using water.

When you finish washing ensure the tap is properly closed and leave the wash area in a clean and tidy condition.

If you can't use the designated aircraft wash area

Please contact the SMA Environment Manager on 8709 9409 or the SMA Environment Officer on 8709 9435 to discuss any alternatives.

DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this sheet is of a general nature and may or may not apply or be appropriate to your particular circumstances. It is not legal advice nor is it a substitute for obtaining legal or other professional advice from a qualified person. It is the responsibility of every tenant and occupier of land on the Airport to comply with the Airports Act, all airport related Regulations, and all other laws relating to occupying land at the Airport and the conduct of a business on that land. To understand your obligations you should make your own inquiries and consult a professional or other qualified advisor regarding your particular circumstances and situation.