



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICE
SUITE 900 - JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0334

TDOT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE - ENVIRONMENTAL

NO.
009

Subject: **PARTS WASHER UNITS AND BRAKE WASHER UNITS**

Reviewed and
approved by:

Barry Brown, PE

Facilities and MS4/TSCS Program Manager, TDOT Environmental Compliance Office

05-02-17

Date

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Environmental Bureau Chief, TDOT Environmental Planning Bureau

5.5.17

Date

Status: Revised and re-approved with minor changes.

Version 4 – Replaces
Version 3 dated April 2016

1.0 PARTS/BRAKE WASHER UNITS

The steps outlined within the procedure apply only to parts washer units that utilize a fluid filtering/recycling system and does not apply to water or steam-based parts washers. Parts washer units are designed to remove impurities from equipment parts. As the unit operates, the fluid becomes contaminated with these impurities, including dirt, grease, and grit. The unit is designed to remove these contaminants through a series of three filters which require periodic changing. The liquid in the parts washer unit does not need routine changing. The only maintenance normally required is (1) replenishing the fluid when the fluid levels are low and (2) replacing the filters when the fluid no longer becomes clean after running through the filters. To ensure proper function of the parts washer, the following principles should be followed:

- Note the fluid is only cleaned when circulating through the filters. After substantial parts washing, or after cleaning especially soiled parts, allow the parts washer to cycle the fluid through the filters for at least 30 minutes.
- When the fluid no longer cleans well, or when it becomes discolored, allow the fluid to cycle for several hours. If this does not clean the fluid, change one or more filters in the unit. Filter change-out should be performed as dictated by the manufacturer's instructions and experience.

- Parts washer fluid should rarely, if ever, need to be drained and replaced. On the rare occasion this might be necessary, contact either the Regional Environmental Coordinator or the Environmental Compliance Office first. Then, collect the spent fluid in a 55-gallon drum and label "Spent Parts Washer Fluid". The Environmental Compliance Office will make appropriate waste determinations (hazardous or special waste) based on experience and possibly sampling results. Manage waste in accordance with TDOT waste management policies.