

Machine Shop Checklist #9: Mop Water, Sump Water, and Cleaning Water



Mop water and sump water used to clean machine sumps may be designated as dangerous waste, depending on:

- The detergent used.
- The metalworking fluid used.
- The solvents in the shop.
- Metal particulates and sludge contaminants picked up when mopping.

You might avoid designating mop water as dangerous waste by using a floor absorbent to clean up dangerous waste spills.

Two disposal options

1. Manage as dangerous waste

- If the shop's spent metalworking fluid is being managed as dangerous waste, you can add mop water to it. Don't add mop water to spent metalworking fluid unless your disposal vendor approves of mixing the two.
- If the spent mop water is dangerous waste, label the container "Dangerous Waste" and "Toxic." The letters must be at least one-half inch tall or readable at 25 feet. Send it off site with a vendor (ask your Ecology contact for a vendor list).

2. Determine it's not dangerous waste

- Designate (test) spent mop water to show it's not dangerous waste. Ask Ecology for help.
- If it's not dangerous waste, you can discharge it to the sewer—if it's below the sewer district's limits for oil, grease, and other chemicals. Contact your wastewater pretreatment coordinator for approval.
- Don't discharge spent mop wastewater to storm drains, dry wells, or septic systems.

Contact Information

Central Region: (509) 575-2490

Eastern Region: (509) 329-3400

Northwest Region: (206) 594-0000

Southwest Region: (360) 407-6300

Webpage: ecology.wa.gov/P2

Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email HWTRPubs@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 407-6700, or dial 711 for relay services. Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more information.