



Hazardous Waste Generator Program
San Mateo County Environmental Health Services Division
Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)
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REMOVAL POLICY FOR OIL WATER SEPARATORS

This policy must be followed when an **OIL WATER SEPARATOR** (OWS) is to be removed or abandoned in place in San Mateo County:

- 1 **PERMIT** although a permit is not required, the facility must notify the San Mateo County Environmental Health Services Division (Division) **two weeks prior to removal**.
- 2 A **WORK PLAN** must be submitted to the Division one week in advance of the OWS closure and must include:
 - Name and address of the facility where the OWS is to be removed.
 - EPA ID number of the facility where the OWS is to be removed.
 - Name, address, phone number and EPA ID number of the contractor removing the OWS.
 - Date and time of the proposed OWS removal.
 - Copies of written notices, indicating that the local Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) and the local city jurisdiction were notified.
 - All liquids and solids (sludge) from the OWS must be removed and disposed of as hazardous waste; **OR** a hazardous waste determination must be made. Results verifying the materials as non-hazardous waste must be submitted to the Division. Analysis must be performed by a California State Certified Laboratory.
 - The OWS must be cleaned using an approved method. Liquid rinsate must be managed as hazardous waste; **OR** a hazardous waste determination must be made. Results verifying the materials as non-hazardous must be submitted to the Division. Analysis must be performed by a California State Certified Laboratory.
 - A Division Inspector must be present during any sampling activities. Notice must be given a minimum of 72 hours.

- Once the OWS has been properly cleaned, a visual inspection **must** be conducted by a Division Inspector to assess the condition of the sump, piping and interior of each chamber in the OWS. Particular attention will be paid to any damage observed to the inside walls connections in the piping. **If** the integrity of the OWS is intact as determined by a 24-hour hydrostatic test, the OWS will be considered clean and ready for removal or abandonment in place.
 - Signs of damage in the OWS (cracks especially in the floor or sidewalls) **must** be differentiated from stress fractures which are considered a common occurrence in any concrete structure and do not compromise its integrity. Soil samples will be required if the integrity of the OWS is compromised. A **72-hour minimum notice** is required prior to taking samples.
 - A sampling protocol must be approved by The Division before work begins.
 - Inlet piping abandoned in place **must** be sealed with cement grout from the drains to the point of entry into the OWS.
 - Outlet piping **must** be grouted as far as is practical and plastic capped off at the ends, as needed, to reduce sloughing.
 - Any vent pipes for the OWS must be sealed in the same way. The interior of the separator must be filled up to six inches below the OWS opening with an approved material. The remaining space must be filled with concrete or other approved material.
- 3 A **FINAL REPORT** must be submitted to the Division within thirty five (35) days of the OWS closure and must include the following information:
- Copy of the bill of lading indicating that any materials were disposed for recycling.
 - Copy of the consolidated manifest showing disposal of all hazardous waste.
 - Copy of the chain of custody for samples.
 - Copy of the analytical report.
 - A map showing the OWS location. Its removal excavation or abandonment in place.
- 4 **FEES** Up to five hours of staff time may be charged for the following:
- 1 hour for work plan review.
 - 1 hour for sampling oversight.
 - 1 hour for OWS inspection.
 - 1 hour for final report review.
 - 1 hour for closure letter writing (if applicable).