

**Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells**  
***(Floor Drains in Shop Areas Connected to a Leach Field)***

The construction and/or use of motor vehicle waste disposal wells in Nebraska are prohibited as of April 2, 2002.

Motor vehicle waste can be anything that leaks, drips or is washed off any type of mechanized equipment used in agriculture, construction, industrial activities, maintenance, recreation or transportation. A disposal well is an underground structure that accepts fluids and allows them to seep into the surrounding sediments. An example of a motor vehicle waste disposal well is a floor drain in an automotive shop that is connected to a septic system.

Motor vehicle waste disposal wells that are currently in use must be properly closed. Prior to any work being completed a closure plan must be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) Underground Injection Program (UIC) for approval. If there are questions about the rules or closure plans, please call David Miesbach, UIC Program Coordinator at (402) 471-4982.

Some options for closure include, but are not limited to, plumbing the floor drain to a holding tank which is periodically pumped and hauled; utilizing the existing mud pit as the holding tank and having it pumped; hooking up to a city sewer after installing an in-line oil/water separator or plugging the floor drain completely. These options also apply to new construction where floor drains may be necessary.

Prior to pumping and hauling waste off-site, waste collected from the floor sumps (both liquid and solid) may need to have a waste determination performed. In most circumstances, a sample(s) will need to be collected and analyzed prior to disposal to ensure the waste is non-hazardous. As a rule, hazardous waste cannot be disposed at landfills and must be appropriately managed. The NDEQ can assist you in determining if the waste needs to be tested and, if the waste is hazardous, what your regulatory requirements would include. Waste determination questions should be directed to Jim Harford, Waste Management Section at (402) 471-8308.

Source: Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality