



Best Management Practices (BMP) For Protecting Ground Water

For Print Shops Using Shallow Industrial Waste Disposal Wells

EPA recognizes that certain industrial waste disposal practices using drainage wells may pose unacceptable risks to Underground Sources of Drinking Water. These operations allow the discharge of various wastes to a drainage system neither designed for nor capable of treating them. Accordingly, BMPs for Industrial Disposal Wells focus on well closure and alternative disposal methods. We have also included BMPs for waste minimization to help facilities reduce waste disposal costs, regardless of the disposal method they use. In addition local, county, and State regulations may prohibit use of these wells. Note: these practices are recommendations only.

The BMPs listed below apply to print shops. Fact Sheet Number 2 in this series lists BMPs that are applicable to Industrial Disposal Wells in general (including those used by print shops), particularly for closure and alternative disposal.

Waste Minimization

- * Use photomechanical, electrostatic, and surface plate processes rather than metal etching and plating since the former generate smaller amounts of hazardous waste
- * Use electronic imaging for editing and print only final versions on paper to reduce chemical (and paper) use
- * Use water-based or soy-based inks, where possible, to minimize petroleum concentrations in waste water
- * Install automatic web splicers and web break detectors
- * Install automatic blanket cleaners
- * Use automatic ink levelers
- * Standardize ink sequence and ink rotation to the greatest extent practicable
- * Use aerosol spray in place of solvents to clean out ink fountains at the end of

print runs to prevent drying and clogging

- * Use countercurrent washing where appropriate

Note: These BMPs are adapted from a May 1991 EPA report titled, "Class V Well BMP Guidance - Phase I and Phase II" and have been modified in response to comments by EPA Regions. For a copy of the EPA report, please contact the Underground Injection Control Branch of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. EPA