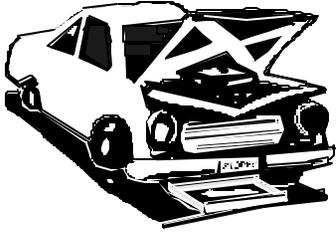


POLLUTION PREVENTION PRACTICES for Automotive Service and Repair Shops



Best Management Practices (BMPs) for automotive service and repair shops

Stormwater pollution has many sources. One of the most common is the illegal dumping or spilling of wastes directly into storm drains, like pouring used motor oil or paint directly into a storm drain.

As part of its Stormwater Management Plan, one of the goals of STOPPP is to control pollutants discharged to the municipal storm drains from commercial and industrial businesses

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, can help minimize the discharge of pollutants from your facility.

Operate a Clean, Dry Shop

- Sweep or vacuum the shop floor frequently.
- Designate specific areas indoors for parts cleaning.
- Clean up any spill promptly.
- Keep rags, damp mops, absorbents, and other cleanup supplies readily accessible to all work areas.
- Never sweep or flush wastes into a sanitary sewer or storm drain.

Prevent Spills and Leaks

- Drain fluids from leaking or wrecked vehicles as soon as possible. Use drip pans and plastic tarps.
- Promptly transfer drained fluids to a designated

waste storage area.

- Place bulk fluids, waste fluids, and batteries in secondary containment to capture accidental spills.

Practice Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Recycle automotive fluids, solvents, cleaners, absorbents, and washwaters; when the useful life is finished.
- Mix only the amount of paint needed for a job.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning with solvents.
- Reuse water used in flushing and testing radiators.
- Automotive fluids are NOT acceptable for disposal to the sanitary sewer, storm drain, or garbage.

Properly Manage Shop Wastewaters

- Wastewaters must be collected for off-site disposal or discharged to the sanitary sewer, if permitted. Examples include wastewaters from controlling overspray or dust in the paint booth, degreaser washoff, wet sanding, radiator flushing, floor washdown, mop water, or other production uses.
- Check with the local sewer agency about disposal requirements.

Protect Outdoor Work and Storage Areas

- If work or materials storage must be done outdoors, prevent potential pollution of rain and runoff by covering and/or berming work areas.
- Check with the local building authorities about structural alterations.

Properly Manage Vehicle Washwaters

- Soapy or oily vehicle washwaters must be either collected for off-site disposal or discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- Check with the local sewer agency about washwater disposal requirements.
- A commercial car wash may be an alternative if your facility is not equipped properly.
- Soapy or oily vehicle washwaters are NOT acceptable for disposal to the storm drain.

Properly Manage Raw and Waste Materials

- Follow all hazardous materials and hazardous waste storage and disposal requirements.
- Oil or solvent-saturated absorbent must be managed as a hazardous waste.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured against wind, leakage, or vandalism.

Label and Inspect Storm Drain Inlets

- Label storm drain inlets on your property to alert employees and customers that no dumping of wastewaters or tainted washwater is allowed.
- Prevent accumulated pollutants from washing down storm drains on your property by inspecting drains on premises frequently.
- Sweep or vacuum work areas and parking lots regularly.
- Remove debris and dispose of it in the trash.
- Never wash down areas with hoses and avoid using blowers which only displace residues.

Notify and Train Employees to Practice Pollution Prevention

- Post notices of appropriate practices such as those in this flyer, and train employees on their use.
- Set up a system to make it easy to separate, store, and recycle wastes.



**San Mateo Countywide
Stormwater Pollution
Prevention Program
(STOPPP)
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063**

*A program of the City/County Association of Governments
(C/CAG)*