

HOW TO PREVENT POLLUTION FROM AUTO SERVICE AND REPAIR INDUSTRIES

Fuels, oil, grease, floor solvents, cleaning agents, cigarette butts, food waste, paper napkins, and Styrofoam all contribute to the pollution of our waterways. By implementing proper cleaning and waste management practices the introduction of these pollutants to our waterways can be avoided.

Fuels, oils, solvents, and related pollutants invade storm drain systems and increase toxic levels, which harm birds, fish, and other aquatic life, cause beach closures, and impair our drinking water supplies. Floating materials also pollute our lakes and streams and reduce natural beauty of our waterways. This results in a negative impact on aesthetics of our natural resources and tourism/recreation opportunities.



STORMWATER POLLUTION

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and other pollutants.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Stormwater is not treated. Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted water directly into lakes, rivers, and streams with no treatment. This is known as **Stormwater Pollution**. Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Fortunately, stormwater pollution can be prevented or minimized by implementing **Best Management Practices** which are procedures or activities that reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater.

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STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

AUTO SERVICE AND REPAIR



POLLUTANT SOURCES

The following are potential sources of pollution from the automotive service industry:

- Dumpster Areas
- Equipment and Facility Cleaning
- Vehicle Cleaning
- Handling and disposal of:
 - Grease
 - Fuels
 - Oils

Pollutants include:

- Heavy Metals (Copper, Lead, Zinc)
- Hydrocarbons (Oil, Grease)
- Toxic Chemicals (Cleaners)
- Trash and Litter

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Consider implementing some of these effective pollution prevention practices:

- Properly dispose of hazardous waste
- Choose non-toxic cleaners
- Reduce or redirect stormwater flows across parking lots
- Choose dry clean-up methods (sweeping)
- Wash vehicles near grassy areas
- Recycle or reuse waste products
- Provide employee training for good housekeeping practices

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Dumpster Area

- Use water-tight receptacles and keep lids closed
- Bag and seal waste containers before placing in dumpsters
- Keep areas around dumpsters clean and secure to prevent unwanted dumping
- Clean spills up immediately
- Ensure area is sloped to prevent stormwater run-off or install low containment barriers around the area

Hazardous Waste

- Store all materials under cover and inside of spill containment
- Recycle motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze
- Recycle tires and metal filings
- Contact a licensed waste hauler and remove wastes regularly from your site

Parts Cleaning, Grinding, Polishing

- Keep bin under lathe or grinder to capture metal filings
- Scrape parts with wire brush or bake rather than use liquid cleaners
- Arrange drip pans and drying racks so that liquids are directed back into sink or holding tank
- DO NOT wash parts or dump wash water in parking lots, streets, alleys, or on sidewalks

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

General

- Contain wash water. DO NOT dispose of in the gutter, alley, or street.
- Maintain grounds
- Maintain all good housekeeping practices

Spill Clean-Up

- Develop and maintain a spill response plan
- Call 911 for hazardous spills or any spill that reaches a waterway, drain, or ditch
- Have a spill kit on hand and easily accessible
- Clean leaks and drips daily
- Use dry methods for spill clean-up:
 - Grab a broom, not the hose
 - Use absorbent materials like cat litter, sand, and sawdust

