



Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Automotive Services

This fact sheet provides information and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for Automotive Services.

Potential Pollutant Sources

The following activities are potential sources of pollution from automotive services:

- Dumpster area
- Equipment cleaning
- Grease handling and disposal
- Vehicle cleaning

Pollutants Include, but are not limited to:

- Heavy Metals (copper, zinc, lead)
- Oil and grease
- Toxic Chemicals (cleaners, disinfectants)
- Trash and Litter

Pollution Prevention

The following are effective pollution prevention activities:

- Properly dispose of hazardous waste,
- Reduce storm water flow across parking lots and redirect flow away from storm drains,
- Reduce the use of water to clean parking lots by using dry methods (sweeping),
- Wash vehicles near pervious areas (grass),
- Recycle and reuse waste products, and
- Provide employee training for good house-keeping practices.

Best Management Practices

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) definition of a BMP is a technique, process, activity, or structure used to reduce the pollutant content of a stormwater discharge. BMPs include simple, nonstructural methods, such as good housekeeping and preventive maintenance. BMPs may include sophisticated, structural modifications, such as sediment basins.

Recommended BMPs

General

- ⇒ Contain wash water. Do not dispose of in the gutter or street.
- ⇒ Maintain good housekeeping practices on the site.

Auto Parts Cleaning

- ⇒ Scrape parts with wire brush or bake rather than use liquid cleaners.
- ⇒ Arrange drip pans and drying racks so that fluids are directed back into sink or holding tank.
- ⇒ Do not wash parts in a parking lot or street.

Hazardous Waste

- ⇒ Store all materials under cover with spill containment.
- ⇒ Recycle motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze and other fluids, tires and metal filings.
- ⇒ Contact a licensed hazardous waste hauler and remove wastes periodically from site.

Grinding and Polishing

- ⇒ Keep bin under lathe or grinder to capture metal filings.
- ⇒ Recycle uncontaminated metal filings.

Spill Clean Up

- ⇒ Develop and maintain a spill response plan.
- ⇒ Have a supply of spill clean up materials
- ⇒ Spot clean leaks and drips daily
- ⇒ Use dry methods when cleaning up spills.
- ⇒ Keep spills from entering storm drains.
- ⇒ Notify the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local fire department of hazardous waste spills.