

cleaning onto the ground or into a street, gutter, or storm drain.

### Changing Oil and Other Fluids

- ◆ Change vehicle fluids indoors and only on floors constructed of non-porous materials, or only in areas where spills can be captured and disposed of properly. Avoid working over asphalt and dirt surfaces that absorb vehicle fluids.
- ◆ If vehicle fluids must be removed outdoors, always use a drip pan.
- ◆ Transfer fluids drained from vehicles to a designated waste storage area as soon as possible.
- ◆ Never pour vehicle fluids or other hazardous waste into storm drains, sewers, or into dumpsters where they could leak out. These substances should be kept in designated waste storage containers until recycled or disposed of properly.

### Car Washing

- ◆ If car washing is a central activity for your business, you must use a covered wash pad that drains to the sanitary sewer. Treat and recycle wash water. Also install an oil/grit separator if required by the sewer agency.
- ◆ If car washing is an occasional activity of your business, avoid washing vehicles on site. Take vehicles to a commercial car wash or provide your customers with a courtesy voucher for a properly equipped commercial car wash.

### Placer County Stormwater Quality Division

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### Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Recycling

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# Stormwater Quality for Automotive Businesses



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Placer County Stormwater Quality Division



# Stormwater Quality for Automotive Businesses

## What every owner or manager should know...

Automotive related business owners, managers, and employees should be aware that the discharge of pollutants from their businesses' activities into the storm drainage system, or into surrounding water bodies, is prohibited by local ordinance and state and federal law. Such discharges can result in severe penalties. Typical pollutants generated by automotive businesses include wastewater from car washing, motor oil, brake dust, sanding waste, filler residue, paints, thinners, plating wastes, and other automotive fluids. It is your responsibility to keep pollutants from your business out of the storm drainage system and local waterways. Local sewer service providers may allow discharge of wastes to the sewer system with an appropriate permit.



## The Basics

Stormwater regulations include two basic requirements:

- ◆ Only rain water may be discharged to a storm drain.
- ◆ Minimize the contact of rainfall and runoff with pollutant sources. Do this by maintaining a clean facility, keeping materials covered, and managing wastes responsibly.

## Education and Training

Train all employees upon hiring on stormwater quality and proper methods for handling and disposing of hazardous waste. Ensure that all employees understand and utilize the appropriate disposal methods for all types of wastes and

waste water. Post signs and mark storm drains, floor drains, and plumbing fixtures to remind employees of the importance of using proper disposal methods.



## Materials Storage

- ◆ Store hazardous materials and wastes under cover and with secondary containment to prevent spills or leaks from reaching the storm drain system.
- ◆ Keep dumpster lids closed and keep lids on waste containers.
- ◆ Keep storage areas clean and dry.
- ◆ Conduct regular inspections to detect and correct any leaks and spills immediately.
- ◆ Store batteries securely to avoid breakage and spills. Shelving should be secured to the wall. Store used batteries indoors in plastic trays to contain potential leaks. Recycle old batteries.

## Keeping a Clean Shop

Good housekeeping makes it easier to detect spills and potential problems.

- ◆ Never hose down or pressure wash work areas unless the resulting wash water is contained, treated, and disposed of properly.
- ◆ Sweep or vacuum the shop floor frequently. Pick up sweepings and dispose of them in a trash receptacle. Use mopping as an alternative to hosing down work areas. Mop water must be disposed of in the sanitary sewer.
- ◆ Keep parking lots clean in order to prevent mobilization of oils, residues, and debris by subsequent rainfall.
- ◆ Residue from the sanding of fillers is a common

auto body shop pollutant—it should be collected and disposed of in a trash receptacle.

- ◆ Collect all metal filings, dust, and paint chips from grinding, shaving, and sanding, and dispose of the waste in a trash receptacle.
- ◆ Use drip pans under leaking vehicles to capture fluids.
- ◆ Keep fully stocked spill kits available at all times and make sure that employees know when and how to use them.

## Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Hazardous wastes may never be discharged to the sanitary sewer or storm drain. All hazardous materials and hazardous wastes must be stored, used, and disposed of according to federal, state,



and local laws, including, but not limited to, fire codes, and hazardous materials and waste laws. Contact the Western Placer Waste Management Authority for more details.

## Parts Cleaning and Radiator Flushing

- ◆ Use a licensed service to haul and recycle or dispose of wastes.
- ◆ Designate specific areas or service bays for engine parts or radiator cleaning. Do not wash or rinse parts outdoors.
- ◆ Use self-contained sinks and tanks when working with solvents.
- ◆ Never discharge cleaning solutions or waste water from steam cleaning or engine/parts