

## How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices, or BMPs, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMPs in this brochure.

## What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-2678.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go on line at: <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>



P.O. Box 5002  
Tempe, AZ 85280  
480-350-2678  
fax 480-350-2615



Environmentally Friendly Automotive Service Facility Practices

Environmental Services Division

Storm Water Hotline  
480-350-2811

# Environmentally Friendly Automotive Service Facility Practices

Two of the leading causes of storm water pollution are automobile fluids and debris. Automobile service facilities have standards that are in place, but there are a number of potential pollutants that are not being treated at the source of the problem. Automotive service facilities categorized in one of the following SIC codes: 5013, 5014, 5511, 5541, 7532-7534, 7536-7539; including motor vehicle supplies and new part establishments including tires, motor vehicle new and used dealers, gasoline service and repair stations, automotive repair shops including paint, body, and tire shops are regulated under the Clean Water Act. It is important to remember the following points of information below:

## Preventative Practices

- Throw away rags that have chemicals on them (rainwater can saturate rags and flow into storm drains or sanitary sewer systems).
- Seal all leaks on vehicles or place a drip pan underneath the vehicle when indoors or under a covered structure.
- Temporarily block inlets to the storm drain system with clean rubber mats to prevent dirt and chemicals from entering during regular cleaning and spill cleanup.

## Spill Cleanup/Cleaning & Maintenance

- Use dry cleaning methods for cleaning parts; avoid using hazardous chemicals (if possible).
- Do not hose down your shop floor or parking lot. It is best to sweep regularly.
- Prevent chemicals from entering storm drains.
- Clean up spills by applying absorbent materials (like sawdust or kitty litter) then sweeping up and disposing to the garbage.

## Parking Vehicles on Lots

- Check vehicles for leaks before parking.
- Drain wrecked, leaking vehicles right away; or place a drip pan underneath vehicles to absorb spills/leaks.

## Storage

- Store and dispose of wastes properly.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured. Preferably keep all solid waste containers inside the shop away

from water exposure. If it is necessary to keep containers outside, be sure they are covered.

## Recycle

- Recycle oil and filter, tires, fluids, and wash water.
- Segregate waste fluids to increase recycling opportunities.

## Vehicle/Parts Washing

- Washing vehicles should be an inside job. If you are washing relatively clean vehicles with water only, wash water can be diverted to a large grassy area.
- Soapy or oily vehicle wash water must be either collected for offsite disposal or discharged to the sanitary sewer through an approved interceptor.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning with solvents.
- Designate a wash bay where water will be collected onsite.
- Clean interceptors at least every 180 days.

## Identifying Procedures/Areas for Maintenance

- Designate areas for maintenance activities.
- Regularly maintain equipment and vehicles.
- Properly design fueling/other maintenance areas.
- Equip drains with shutoff valves in case of spills and regularly inspect these valves.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition, covered, and secured.

## Employee and Public Education

- Train employees on pollution prevention practices and post Best Management Practices (BMPs) around service areas and near customer areas.
- Encourage customers to recycle oil, batteries, and tires at your location.

## Miscellaneous Tips

- Mix only the right amount of paint for a job.
- Inventory automobile fluids to prevent long-term storage.
- Inspect for leaking bottles.
- Use less toxic substances.
- Switch to non-chlorinated compounds, such as citrus-based solvents, for parts cleaning.
- Use an aqueous (or "water") cleaning system instead of a solvent-based parts washer.
- Always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) before ordering new products.
- Never discharge any waste to a street, ditch, storm sewer, stream, or the ground.
- For further assistance for automotive repair facilities, check out these websites for information about compliance and pollution prevention:

Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network

<http://www.wrppn.org>

Coordinating Committee for Automotive Repair

[www.ccar-greenlink.org](http://www.ccar-greenlink.org)

While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.

