



Pass the next facility inspection

Automobile fluids and debris are the leading causes of stormwater pollution and can be generated by auto repair shops and car wash facilities. Parts cleaning, fluid draining and other activities in a repair shop can produce regulated wastes such as spent solvents, waste antifreeze and used oil. If improperly managed, these wastes can contaminate waterways. Facilities that do not implement pollution prevention best practices may be found in violation of Chapter 12, Article VI of the Tempe City Code. Review this document fully to learn how to stay in compliance and train employees on best management practices (BMPs) to prevent pollution.



Auto repair BMPs

- Operate a clean, dry shop.
- Sweep shop floor frequently; do not hose down brake dust or other materials.
- Clean up spills promptly using absorbent materials.
- Never sweep or flush waste into sanitary sewer or storm drain.
- Dispose of mop water through an oil/water separator into the sanitary sewer.
- Prevent spills and leaks.
- Use a drip pan for leaking vehicles.
- Store bulk or waste fluids in secondary containment.
- Dispose of rags that have chemicals on them; rainwater can saturate rags and flow into storm drains.
- Keep liquid waste containers indoors, in good condition and secured.
- Keep solid waste containers in good condition, covered and secured.
- Wash or rinse parts indoors in designated and contained areas.
- Practice waste reduction and recycling.
- Store parts and equipment inside or in enclosed areas.
- Keep work under cover or within bermed work areas to protect storm drains when working outdoors.
- Do not dispose of automotive fluids in the sanitary sewer or storm drain. Recycle or dispose of these through a licensed contractor.
- Clean interceptors at least every 180 days.
- Recycle used oil and filters, batteries, and tires; encourage customers to drop off items for recycling.
- Use an aqueous (or “water” based) cleaning system instead of a solvent-based parts washer.
- Request and review Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before ordering new products.
- Do not discharge any waste to a street, ditch, storm sewer or the ground.



Car washing BMPs

Wastewater from car washing facilities commonly contains chemicals, detergents, oil and dirt. Wash water from these facilities never should be released into storm drains or onto the ground as it can contaminate waterways, lakes and parks.

Prevent pollution by following these practices.

- Sweep areas outside of the carwash; do not hose down these areas.
- Clean up spills promptly using dry, absorbent material.
- Collect soapy or oily vehicle wash water for off-site disposal or for discharge into the sanitary sewer through an approved interceptor.
- Maintain the oil/water separator by having it pumped out at least every 180 days to ensure proper drainage to the sanitary sewer system.
- Do not operate car wash when oil/water separator is backed up or not properly functioning.
- Do not use the car wash with clogged drains.
- Ensure that car wash staff is trained to shut the car wash down in the event of flooding or water backup.

Copper BMPs

Copper can become toxic at higher concentrations. Copper comes from many sources, including industrial and commercial activities, cooling towers, electrical equipment, vehicle brake pads and some pesticides and algaecides. When it rains, the copper in these materials can be carried in stormwater runoff, which goes untreated directly to Tempe urban lakes, rivers, parks and groundwater.

These practices keep excess copper out of stormwater.

- Contain and dispose of fluids used for vehicle maintenance properly. Fluids from radiator repair and flushing contain high concentrations of copper.
- Prevent wash water containing brake dust from entering storm drains by using a commercial car wash or designated vehicle washing area.

Stay in compliance and prepare for the next facility inspection by following stormwater pollution best practices. These practices help businesses avoid violations and protect the health of the environment and community members.

While the actions of an individual business might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a community can have a serious cumulative effect. Encourage others to take action to prevent stormwater pollution. For information, call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311. tempe.gov/stormwater