

## 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?

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.



## How to Prevent Pollution from Auto Servicing and Repair Stations

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.



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Stormwater  
Pollution Prevention

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Automotive Servicing and Repair Industry



This fact sheet provides basic information and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for Auto Servicing and Repair Centers



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## Potential Pollutant Sources

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

- ◆ Dumpster Areas
- ◆ Equipment and Facility Cleaning
- ◆ Vehicle Cleaning
- ◆ Grease, Fuels, Oils, handling and disposal

Pollutants Include, but are not limited to:

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

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines a BMP as a techniques, process, activity, or structure used to reduce the pollutant content of a stormwater discharge. BMPs may include simple nonstructural methods, such as good housekeeping and preventative maintenance. BMPs may also include sophisticated, structural modifications, such as sediment basins or other engineered equipment.

## Pollution Prevention

The following activities are effective pollution prevention activities:

- Properly dispose of hazardous waste
- Use non-toxic cleaning substances
- Reduce stormwater flows 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 vehicle near pervious areas (grass)
- Recycle and reuse waste products, and
- Provide employee training for good housekeeping practices

## Recommended BMPs

### General

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

### 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 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
- Clean-up spills
- 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 Fire department and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality of hazardous spills, especially if the spill reaches a storm drain, ditch, or channel



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