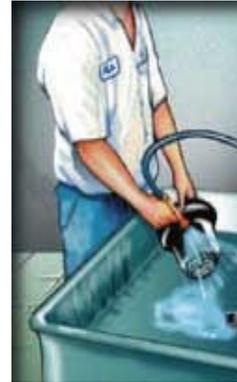


Automotive Repair & MS4 What does this mean?



Many common car maintenance routines contribute to pollution of our waterways and some auto repair establishments may not be aware of activities that could be negatively impacting our marine environment. Water run-off from streets, parking lots and driveways picks up oil and grease dripped from cars, asbestos worn from brake linings, zinc from tires, and organic compounds and metals from spilled fuels. These chemicals drain into the waterways, harming aquatic life. Oil and grease, for example, clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. If oxygen levels in the water become too low, aquatic animals die. This brochure provides you with a few simple practices you can follow to insure a healthy environment for both your repair facility and our local waterways.

Cleaning Auto Parts



Scrape parts with a brush rather than liquid cleaners. Arrange drip pans and drain boards so that fluids are drained back into the sink or fluid holding tank. Use non-toxic cleaning products.

Preventing Leaks and Spills

Place drip pans underneath to capture fluids. Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work areas. Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as unused gas, transmission and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage.



Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills. Use a funnel when pouring liquids and place a tray underneath to catch spills.



Post BMP's where employees and customers can see them. Showing customers you protect the waterways is good public relations.

Metal Polishing and Grinding

Keep a bin under your lathe or grinder to capture metal filings. Send uncontaminated filing to a scrap metal recycler for reclamation.



Proper Storage of Hazardous Waste

Keep your liquid wastes segregated. Many fluids can be recycled. Store all materials under cover or inside to prevent contamination by rainwater.



Oil/Water Separator & Cleaning up Spills

Automotive repair facilities must have an oil/water separator installed. These must be maintained with an annual maintenance schedule submitted to the town. This should include pumping and cleaning of the system. Follow your hazardous materials response plan. Be sure that all employees are aware of the plan and are capable of implementing each phase of the plan. Use dry methods for spill cleanup (sweeping, absorbent material, etc.)

Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Recycle solvents, oil, used oil filters, antifreeze, batteries, lubricants and metal filings collected from grinding/polishing auto parts. Contact a hazardous waste hauler to dispose of saturated absorbents.

