Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common automotive activities can lead to water pollution if you are not careful. Automotive work areas must be maintained to ensure that oil, gas, antifreeze, lubricants, grease and other fluids do not enter the storm drain or sanitary sewer system.

For more information, please call the Orange County Stormwater Program at 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455) or visit www.ocwatersheds.com.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while performing automotive work. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city’s stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.

For emergencies dial 911
Local, state and federal laws prohibit businesses from allowing anything but rain to enter the storm drains. To help the automotive industry comply with requirements for reducing pollution and protecting water quality, this brochure describes the Best Management Practices (BMPs) and pollution prevention tips you and your employees should follow. Your compliance with these requirements will be examined during future inspections. Failure to comply may result in criminal prosecution or monetary fines. Please review this information and incorporate these practices into your daily activities.

**Work Site**
- Locate the storm drains on or near your property. Do not allow materials to flow into these drains.
- Examine your business for sources of pollution.
- Perform automotive projects under cover and in a controlled area.
- Identify specific activities with the potential to cause spills or release pollutants such as oil, grease, fuel, etc. Post signs and train employees on how to prevent and clean up spills during these activities.

**Preventing Leaks and Spills**
- Train employees on how to properly clean up spills and waste.
- Document employee training.
- Keep a spill kit with absorbent materials in the work area.
- Empty drip pans into a labeled, sealed container, before they are full.
- Check equipment, wipe up spills and repair leaks on a daily basis.

**Cleaning Spills**
- Clean up spills immediately by using absorbents such as rags, cat litter or sand. If the material spilled is hazardous, dispose of the rag, litter or sand in the same manner as hazardous waste. If the material spilled is non-hazardous, dispose of it in the trash.
- Immediately report spills that have entered the street, gutter or storm drain to the County’s 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline at (714) 567-6363 or visit www.ocwatersheds.com to fill out an incident report.
- Post signs instructing customers not to overfill or top-off gas tanks.

**Fueling Areas**
- Operate fueling areas so that spills can be contained and runoff cannot carry spills into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Service drain filters beneath the fueling canopy and replace absorbents annually.
- Post signs instructing customers not to overfill or top-off gas tanks.

**Vehicle Fluid Management**
- Vehicle fluids are hazardous waste and must be stored and disposed of in accordance with all local, state and federal laws.
- Designate an area to drain vehicle fluids away from storm drains and sanitary drains.
- When possible, drain vehicle fluids indoors or within covered areas, and only over floors that are constructed of a non-porous material such as concrete. Asphalt and dirt floors absorb spilled or leaked fluids, making the cleanup extremely difficult.

**Painting**
- Minimize paint and thinner waste by carefully calculating needs based on surface area and by using the proper sprayer cup size.
- Use a commercial car wash facility whenever possible.

**Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning**
- Wash vehicles and equipment in designated areas. Never discharge washwater into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Contact your local sewer agency for information on discharging to the sanitary sewer. Oil/water separators and washwater recycling systems may have special discharge requirements.
- Use a spray nozzle or rinse bucket to conserve water and minimize wastewater.
- Consider the use of a washwater recycling system to minimize wastewater from washing cars.
- Use a commercial car wash facility whenever possible.

**Body Repair and Painting**
- Clean work areas using dry methods. Use a shop vacuum or broom to sweep up dust, metal and debris. Consider investing in a sander with an attached vacuum system to capture dust at the source.
- Do not use vacuum flammable liquids. Allow wet debris to dry overnight on the shop floor and sweep or vacuum it the next day. Liquid must not be discharged into the storm drain system.
- Paint only in approved, enclosed areas equipped with vacuum hoods and filters.
- Minimize paint and thinner waste by carefully calculating needs based on surface area and by using the proper sprayer cup size.

**Tips for the Automotive Industry**
- Identify specific activities with these practices into your daily activities.
- Establish and maintain procedures for conducting automotive projects under cover.
- Provide training for employees on Best Management Practices (BMPs) and pollution prevention.
- Organize automotive activities with requirements for reducing pollution and protecting water quality.
- Conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance with BMPs and pollution prevention tips.
- Document employee training and report any spills or leaks to the appropriate authorities.
- Use non-toxic cleaning products whenever possible.
- Establish procedures for managing vehicle fluids, including proper storage and disposal.
- Use a spray nozzle or rinse bucket to conserve water and minimize wastewater.
- Consider investing in a washwater recycling system to minimize wastewater from washing cars.
- Use a commercial car wash facility whenever possible.

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