## *Engine and Parts Cleaning*

- Clean parts in a self-contained unit, solvent sink, or parts washer to prevent solvents and grease from entering a sewer or storm drain.
- Allow parts to drain over a contained area, rather than allowing materials to drip or spill onto the floor. Never discharge the rinse solution into the storm drain or sanitary sewer system.
- Inspect part-washing units daily for leaks and make repairs immediately.
- Use water-based cleaning solutions instead of solvents. Recycle used solutions through a licensed hazardous waste hauler.
- Avoid using hose-off degreasers and never allow runoff to enter the street, gutter or storm drain. Instead, brush off loose debris and use damp rags to wipe down parts. Clean used rags through a rag service or dispose of them as hazardous waste.

## *Storage*

- Materials and waste such as vehicle parts, fuels, solvents, batteries and oils should be stored off the ground and in areas where they will not be exposed to rainwater.
- Contain cracked batteries to prevent hazardous spills.
- If possible, provide overhead coverage for all outside hazardous materials or waste storage areas. If overhead coverage is not available, cover stored materials with an impervious material prior to a rain event.
- Label waste containers and drums in accordance with all local, state and federal laws and regulations. This will also help remind employees to separate wastes and to recycle them.
- Store liquid waste (hazardous or otherwise) in covered, labeled containers.

## *Waste Recycling and Disposal*

- When possible, recycle and reuse solvents, paints, oil filters, antifreeze, motor oil, batteries, metal scraps, water-based paints, used tires, paper, cardboard, container glass, aluminum, tin, water and lubricants. For a list of recycling locations in your area, visit **www.ciwmb.ca.gov/recycle**.
- Combining different types of hazardous waste will limit your recycling options and can be dangerous. A licensed hazardous waste hauler can provide information on hazardous waste storage and disposal costs.

**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 street, gutter or storm drain. Rain or other water could wash the materials into the storm drain and eventually into our waterways and the ocean. In addition, hazardous waste must not be poured into the sanitary sewer (sinks and toilets).**

**You would never dump vehicle fluids into the ocean, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these tips to help prevent water pollution.**

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

To report a spill, call the **Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline** at **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455)

**For emergencies dial 911**

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.

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Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

# Tips for the Automotive Industry

# Tips for the Automotive Industry

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.
- Sweep or vacuum the shop floor daily.
- Use a damp mop to clean work areas. Never hose down surfaces into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Pour mop water into a sink, toilet or landscaped area. Never dispose of water in a parking lot, street, gutter or storm drain.
- Use non-toxic cleaning products whenever possible.

## *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.
- Place large pans under wrecked cars until all fluids are drained.
- Promptly dispose of collected fluids into a hazardous waste drum.
- To learn more, visit: **www.ocwatersheds.com/StormWater/documents_bmp_existing_development.asp#ind**

## *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.
- Report emergencies to 911.

## *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.

## *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 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.

- Collect water used to control over-spray or dust in the paint booth and recycle or dispose of it properly.
- Clean spray guns in a self-contained unit and recycle or properly dispose of the cleaning solution.
- Prevent all washwater from entering the street, gutter or storm drain.

## *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.

PROJECT Pollution PREVENTION