

For Information:

For information on “closed-loop” suppliers and recycling/disposal vendors, contact:

St. Charles Parish
Emergency Operation Center
(985) 783-5050

SPILL RESPONSE AGENCY:

DEQ Single Point of Contract (SPOC)
(225) 342-1234 (225) 219-3640
St. Charles Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
(985) 783-5050

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OR A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN: (985) 783-5050

To order additional brochures or to obtain information on other pollution prevention activities, visit St. Charles Parish Storm Water page



St. Charles Parish gratefully acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program and the City of Los Angeles Stormwater Management Division for information provided in this brochure.

StormWater Pollution

What you should know for...

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE & CAR CARE



Best Management Practices (BMPS) for:

- Auto Body Shops
- Auto Repair Shops
- Car Dealerships
- Gas Stations
- Fleet Service Operations

StormWater Pollution . . . What You Should Know

St. Charles Parish has two drainage systems - sanitary sewers and storm drains. The storm drain system is designed to help prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets. Since the storm drain system does not provide for water treatment, it also serves the function of transporting pollutants directly to our waterways.

Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant - they flow directly to our local streams, rivers and lakes.

Rain and water runoff from automotive shops and businesses can carry pollutant material into storm drains. Examples of pollutants include oil and grease from cars, copper and asbestos from worn brake linings, zinc from tires, and toxics from spilled fluids.

Stormwater pollution causes as much as 60% of our water pollution problem. It jeopardizes the quality of our waterways and poses a threat to groundwater resources if pollutants percolate through soil.



St. Charles Parish Storm Water Protection Program

Since preventing pollution is much easier, and less costly, than cleaning up “after the fact,” St. Charles Parish Storm Water Protection Program informs residents and businesses on pollution prevention activities such as the Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in this pamphlet.

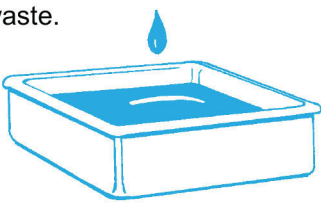
St. Charles Parish has adopted ordinances for stormwater management and discharge control. In accordance with state and federal law, these local stormwater ordinances the discharge of wastes into the storm drain system or local surface waters. This includes discharges containing oil, antifreeze, gasoline and other waste materials.

PLEASE NOTE: A common stormwater pollution problem associated with automotive shops and businesses is the hosing down of service bays, parking and other areas. Often, this activity flushes pollutants into the storm drain system. The discharges of pollutants is **strictly prohibited** by local ordinances and state and federal regulations.

Keep your shop in tune. Follow these Practices to help prevent stormwater pollution . . .

1. Changing Automotive Fluids

- Designate an area away from storm or sanitary drains to change automotive fluids.
- Collect, separate, and recycle motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, and gear oil.
- Drain brake fluid and other non-recyclables into a proper container and handle as a hazardous waste.
- Use a radiator flushing fluid that can be recycled, and add it to the waste antifreeze.



2. Working on Transmissions, Engines, and Miscellaneous Repairs

- Keep a drip pan or a wide low-rimmed container under vehicles to catch fluids whenever you unclip hoses, unscrew filters, or change parts, to contain unexpected leaks.

3. Preventing Leaks and Spills

- Avoid spills by emptying and wiping drip pans when you move them to another vehicle or when they are half-full.
- Routinely check equipment to wipe up spills and repair leaks.
- Place large pans or an inflatable portable berm under wrecked cars.
- Drain all fluids from wrecked vehicles or “parts” cars you keep on site.

4. Cleaning up Spills

- Clean up small spills immediately using shop rags.



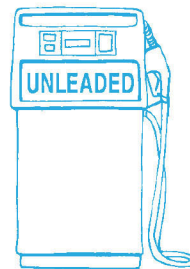
- Keep dry absorbent materials and/or a wet/dry vacuum cleaner on hand for mid-sized spills.
- Contain large spills immediately; block or shut off floor and parking lot drains and notify the authorities.
- Train employees to be familiar with hazardous spill response plans and emergency procedures.

5. Identify and Control Wastewater Discharges

- Ensure that shop sinks and floor drains are connected to the sanitary sewer. Check with the local sewer authority regarding permitting or other requirements.
- Post signs to prevent disposal of liquid wastes into sanitary drains.

6. Fueling Vehicles

- Clean-up minor spills, with a dry absorbent, rather than allowing them to evaporate. Dispose of the absorbent as a dry hazardous waste.
- Use a damp cloth and a damp mop to keep the area clean rather than a hose or a wet mop.



7. Removing and Storing Batteries

- Store batteries indoors, on an open rack.
- Return used batteries to a battery vendor.
- Contain cracked batteries to prevent hazardous spills.

8. Cleaning Parts

- Clean parts in a self-contained unit, solvent sink, or parts washer to prevent solvents and grease from entering a sewer or storm drain connection.



9. Metal Grinding and Finishing

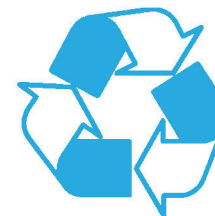
- Catch metal filings in an enclosed unit or on a tarpaulin.
- Sweep filing area to prevent washing metals into floor drains.

10. Storing and Disposing of Waste

- Store recyclable and non-recyclable waste separately.
- Place liquid waste (hazardous or otherwise) within a bermed or secondary containment area.
- Cover outdoor storage areas to prevent contact with rain water.
- Collect used parts for delivery to a scrap metal dealer.

11. Selecting and Controlling Inventory

- Purchase recyclable or non-toxic materials.
- Select “closed-loop” suppliers and purchase supplies in bulk.



12. Outdoor Parking and Auto Maintenance

- Treat outdoor areas as an extension of your service bays or avoid using altogether.
- Sweep-up trash and dirt from outdoor parking and maintenance areas. Do not hose down areas. All non-storm water discharges are prohibited.
- Drain work areas to a sanitary drain rather than a storm drain. Contact the local sewer authority to determine if pretreatment is required.

13. Washing Vehicles, Cleaning Engines, and Other Steam Cleaning

- For occasional car exterior cleaning, minimize the water used and divert runoff to landscaped areas, keeping it out of the storm drain.
- Wash vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent.
- Make sure no wastewater from engine or parts cleaning or steam cleaning is discharged where it may flow to a street, gutter, or storm drain.

14. Cleaning Work Areas

- Sweep or vacuum the shop floor frequently.
- Damp mop work areas - do not hose down work areas into the street or gutter.
- Do not pour mop water into the parking lot, street, gutter or storm drain.
- Use non-toxic cleaning products whenever possible.

Please remember:

