

# Best Management Practices

Automotive service and repair shops contribute to stormwater pollution through improper cleaning practices that allow oil, grease, cleaners, trash and other pollutants to flow into the street, gutter or storm drain. Pollutants deposited on surfaces, such as parking lots and driveways, are washed away by rainwater and enter the stormwater drainage system. These discharges pollute our creeks, lakes and rivers and are prohibited by law. Below are recommended Best Management Practices for Automotive Service and Repair Shops.

## **Operate a Clean, Dry Shop**

- Sweep, mop or vacuum the shop floor frequently.
- Designate specific areas indoors for parts cleaning.
- Clean up any spill promptly.
- Keep rags, damp mops, absorbents, and other cleanup supplies readily accessible to all work areas.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning with solvents.
- Never sweep or flush wastes into a sanitary sewer or storm drain.

## **Protect Storm Drains Located on Your Property**

- Label all storm drain inlets on your property.
- Inspect drain frequently for debris. Remove debris and dispose of it in the trash or other appropriate manner.
- Mop, sweep or vacuum working areas and parking lots frequently.
- NEVER use a hose to wash down an area and avoid using blowers, which only displace residue.

## **Prevent Spills and Leaks**

- Drain fluids from leaking or wrecked vehicles as soon as possible. Use drip pans and plastic tarps.
- Promptly transfer drained fluids to a designated waste storage area.
- Place bulk fluids, waste fluids, and batteries in secondary containment to capture accidental spills.
- Use drip pans and ground cloths beneath vehicles if you have leaks or when doing engine work.
- Avoid performing repairs or work in exterior areas that are exposed to rainwater.

## **Practice Waste Reduction and Recycling**

- Recycle used motor oil and oil filters.
- Mix only the amount of paint needed for a job.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning with solvents.
- Reuse wash water and water used in flushing and testing radiators.
- Automotive fluids are NOT acceptable for disposal to the sanitary sewer, storm drain, or garbage.

## **Properly Manage Shop Wastewaters**

- Wastewaters must be collected for off-site disposal or discharged to the sanitary sewer, if permitted. Examples include wastewaters from controlling over spray or dust in the paint booth, degreaser wash off, wet sanding, radiator flushing, floor wash down, mop water, or other production uses.
- Check with the local sewer agency about disposal requirements.

## **Protect Outdoor Work and Storage Areas**

- If work or materials storage must be done outdoors, prevent potential pollution of rain and runoff by covering and/or berming work areas.
- Check with the local building authorities about structural alterations.

## **Properly Manage Vehicle Wash waters**

- Soapy or oily vehicle wash waters must be either collected for off-site disposal or discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- Check with the local sewer agency about wash water disposal requirements.
- A commercial car wash may be an alternative if your facility is not equipped properly.
- Soapy or oily vehicle wash waters are NOT acceptable for disposal to the storm drain.

## **Dispose of Hazardous Materials Properly**

- Follow all hazardous materials and hazardous waste storage and disposal requirements.
- Oil or solvent-saturated absorbent must be managed as a hazardous waste.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured against wind, leakage, or vandalism.

## **Employee Training**

- Use signage to label storm drains.
- Ensure that all employees know the location of storm drains on the property.
- Post notices of appropriate practices such as those in this flyer, and train employees on their use.
- Set up a system to make it easy to separate, store, and recycle wastes.

# A Clean Environment is Important to All of Us!



Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated stormwater and the pollutants it carries, flow directly into creeks, lakes and Cache la Poudre and South Platte Rivers.

In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial waters from factories have been greatly reduced. However now, the majority of water pollution occurs from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, failing septic systems, pet waste and residential car washing into the storm drains and into the waterways and rivers.

All of these sources add up to a pollution problem! But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that

adds up to a pollution solution!

## ONLY RAIN



## DOWN THE DRAIN

Stormwater  
Management Division  
1001 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Greeley, CO 80634

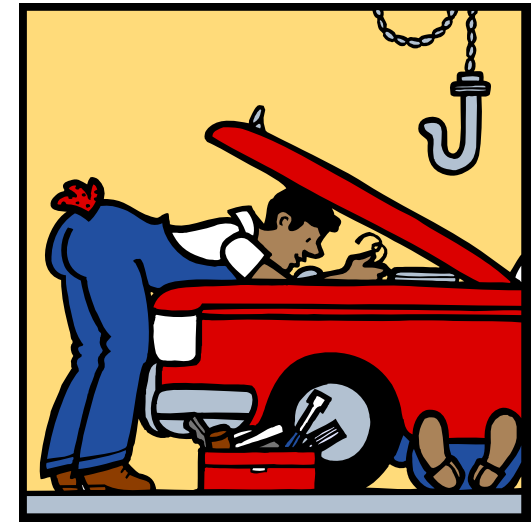
**Stormwater Hotline: 336-4074**

SEPTEMBER 2003

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**City Of Greeley  
Stormwater Protection  
Program  
Stormwater HOTline:  
970-336-4074**