

Mercury Awareness

Mercury pollution in stormwater runoff is a leading cause of waterway impairment. In high quantities, mercury can be harmful to humans. High levels of mercury are partly caused by the improper disposal of:

- Fluorescent lights (including CFLs)
- Electrical switches
- Thermometers
- Pressure and vacuum gauges

San Joaquin County residents can drop off these waste items for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility:

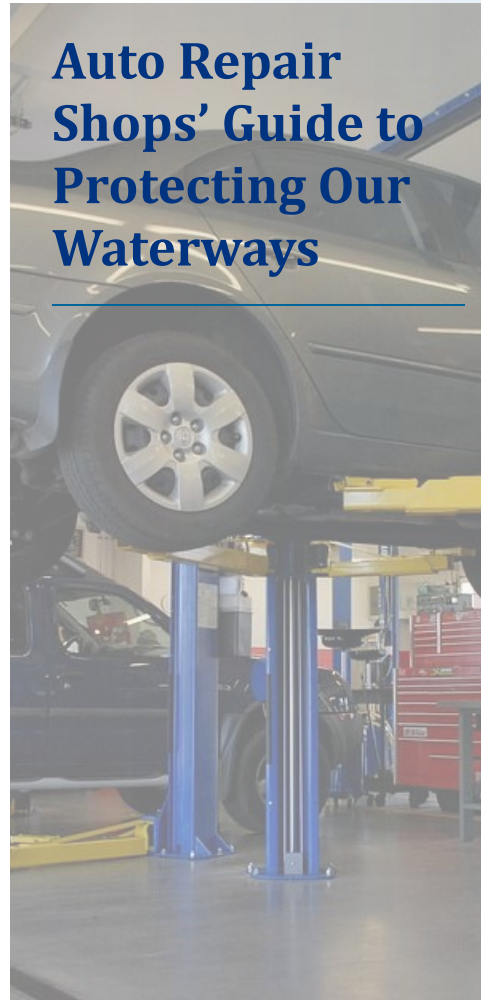
7850 R A Bridgeford Street
Stockton, CA 95206

City of Stockton Municipal Utilities
Department Stormwater Program:
209.937.8700

2500 Navy Drive
Stockton, CA 95206
www.stocktonca.gov/mud

San Joaquin County Stormwater Program:
866.755.4955

Auto Repair Shops' Guide to Protecting Our Waterways



Auto Repair Shops' Guide to Protecting Our Waterways

- ✚ Auto repair shops and facilities that perform auto maintenance can generate pollutants, including heavy metals (copper, lead, nickel and zinc), hydrocarbons (oil and grease), toxic chemicals (solvents, chlorinated compounds, glycols), and acids and alkalis when performing automobile servicing, cleaning parts and floor, materials and waste handling, and materials storage.

- ✚ Prevent pollution by using alternative, safer and/or recycled products; reducing stormwater flow across the site and redirecting flow away from storm drains, gutters and streets; recycling and reusing waste products and waste flow.

General

- ✚ Vacuum or sweep shop floors and adjacent outdoor areas. Never discharge wash water into storm drains, gutters or streets.
- ✚ Maintain facility grounds. Move or cover materials to prevent contact with storm - water.
- ✚ Inspect and clean leaks and drips routinely. Use absorbent pads for spills and dispose of properly.
- ✚ Minimize contact of stormwater with outside operations by using berms and appropriate drainage routing.

- ✚ Label drains indicating if they flow to an oil/water separator, sewer or storm drain.

- ✚ Before the rainy season (October 1), inspect and clean storm drain inlets and catch basins within your facility boundary.

- ✚ Sweep parking lots and areas around your facility instead of washing them down with water.

- ✚ Send dirty rags to an industrial laundry.

Automobile Servicing

- ✚ Conduct maintenance and repair work, including changing motor oil, only in designated areas with spill containment.

- ✚ Build berms or intercept trenches at doorways.

- ✚ Avoid working over asphalt and dirt floors, which can absorb vehicle fluids.

- ✚ When removing or changing vehicle fluids, do so inside or under cover, if possible, to avoid spill runoff.

- ✚ Use a drip pan when unclipping hoses, unscrewing filters or removing other parts. Promptly transfer used fluids to the proper waste or recycling drums.

- ✚ Use a tarp, ground cloth or drip pans beneath the vehicle or equipment to capture all spills and drips if temporary work is conducted outside. Collected drips and spills must be disposed of, re-used or recycled properly.

- ✚ Keep equipment clean and do not allow excessive oil and grease build-up.



Monitor parked vehicles for leaks. Pans should be placed under any leaks to collect the fluids for proper disposal or recycling. Drain oil and other fluids if the vehicle or equipment must be stored outdoors. Do not allow leaking vehicles onsite.



Avoid soldering over drip tanks. Sweep up drippings and recycle or dispose of as hazardous waste.



Sweep or use a vacuum to clean up dust and debris from scraping or bead blasting radiators.

Parts Cleaning



Clean vehicle parts without using liquid cleaners wherever possible to reduce waste.



Steam cleaning and pressure washing may be used instead of solvent parts cleaning. The wastewater generated from steam cleaning must be discharged to an onsite oil/water separator connected to a sanitary sewer or blind sump. Never discharge wastewater from steam or engine/parts cleaning to streets, gutters or storm drains.



Non-caustic detergents should be used instead of caustic cleaning agents, detergent-based or water-based cleaning systems in place of organic solvent degreasers, and non-chlorinated solvent in place of

chlorinated organic solvents for parts cleaning. None of these items can be discharged into a storm drain. Any discharge of these items into the sanitary sewer system must have prior approval. (Call the City of Stockton Environmental Control Office at 937-8740 for disposal approval.)



Designate specific areas or service bays for engine, parts or radiator cleaning. Do not wash or rinse parts outdoors. Keep water from flowing to storm drains, gutters, and streets.



Use self-contained sinks and tanks when working with solvents. Keep sinks and tanks covered when not in use.



Rinse and drain parts over the solvent sink or tank. Use drip boards or pans to catch excess solutions and divert them back to a sink or tank.



Inspect degreasing solvent sinks regularly for leaks and make necessary repairs immediately.



Allow parts to dry over the hot tank. If rinsing is required, rinse over the tank.



Collect and reuse parts cleaning solvents and water used in flushing and testing radiators. When reuse is no longer possible, these solutions may be hazardous waste, and must be disposed of properly.



Discharging solvent rinse water into the sanitary sewer system is prohibited.

Materials and Waste Handling



Label all hazardous wastes according to regulations.



Keep lids on waste barrels and containers, store them indoors or under cover to reduce exposure to rain and prevent spills from reaching sanitary sewer drains, storm drains, gutters and streets.



Do not pour liquid waste into floor drains, sinks, outdoor storm drain inlets or other storm drains or sewer connections.



Store cracked batteries in a nonleaking secondary container and dispose of properly at recycling or household hazardous waste facilities.



Store waste containers of antifreeze and oil within secondary containment. Antifreeze and waste oil should be stored separately and recycled or disposed of as hazardous waste.

Materials Storage



Double-contain all bulk fluids to prevent accidental discharges.



Store new batteries securely to avoid breakage and acid spills. Store used batteries indoors and in plastic trays to contain potential leaks.

Cleaning Floors



Collect all metal filings, dust, paint chips and dispose of properly. Collect all dust from brake pads separately and dispose of properly. Never sweep these wastes outside.



Sweep or vacuum to prevent discharging pollutants into the storm drain conveyance system.



If cleaning agents are used, select less toxic, biodegradable products.



If wash water does not contain soap or other cleaning agents, discharge to a porous surface. Otherwise, it cannot be pumped to the sanitary sewer and may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste.



Consider using an oleophilic mop (picks up oil but no water) to reduce the volume of waste liquids you collect and reduce disposal cost.

Spill Control



Develop and maintain a spill response plan.



Keep an adequate stockpile of spill cleanup materials readily accessible.



Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.



Clean leaks, drips and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent materials for larger spills.



Do not use bleach or disinfectants if there is a possibility that rinse water could flow to streets, gutters or storm drains.

Employee Training



Train employees/staff on the proper facility maintenance, spill control plan, and spill containment/cleanup procedures.



Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.



Use a training log or similar method to document training.