

Automotive Service & Repair Shops

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

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Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are procedures and practices that help prevent pollutants such as automotive fluids, chemicals and other hazardous wastes from entering the storm sewer system. Discharges of chemicals, automotive fluids or other pollutants are PROHIBITED by law and are a violation of Cass County's Stormwater Ordinance. Your business can help keep Stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River clean by applying the following tips.

Keep the Shop Clean

- Sweep, mop, or vacuum the shop floor frequently.
- Designate specific areas indoors for parts cleaning.
- Clean up any spill immediately. Keep a spill kit readily accessible in all work areas. Other tips include;
 - Use drip pans and absorbent cloths beneath vehicles with leaks.
 - Perform repairs indoors.
 - Drain fluids from leaking vehicles to designated waste bin. NEVER MIX FLUIDS.
 - Use a secondary containment system to store bulk fluids, waste fluids and batteries to capture accidental spills.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning solvents.
- NEVER sweep or flush wastes in to a sanitary sewer or storm sewer system.

Protect Storm Drains Located on Your Property

- Label all storm drain inlets on your property. NO DUMPING DRAINS TO RIVER. Contact FM River Keepers about the Storm Drain Marking Program.
- Remove debris from the gutter and catch basin and dispose of it in the trash or other appropriate manner. If a storm drain is clogged with debris contact the Cass County Planning Office at (701) 298-2375
- Sweep parking lots frequently. NEVER use a hose to wash down an area and avoid using blowers which only displace residue.

Dispose of Wastewater Properly

- NEVER allow wastewater to enter the storm sewer system.
- Soapy or oily vehicle wash water must be sent to the sanitary sewer system and may require installation of an oil-water separator.

- If the wastewater from your facility is not sent to the sanitary sewer, you must capture and collect the water so it may be disposed of at an off-site location.

Protect Outdoor Work and Storage Areas

If work or material storage must be done outdoors, berm the area to trap pollutants in a confined area and protect from rain.

Dispose of Hazardous Materials Properly

- Follow all hazardous material and waste disposal requirements.
- Remember that oil or solvent-saturated absorbents must be handled as hazardous waste.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured against wind, leakage, or other elements.

Practice Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Collect all used oil in containers with tight fitting lids. Recycle used motor oil and oil filters.
- Do not mix different engine fluids.

Employee Training

- Ensure that all employees know the location of the storm drains on the property.
- Educate employees on the proper way to clean up spills and prevent pollutants from entering the storm sewer system.

Did You know?

Storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or the wastewater treatment plant. The primary purpose of a storm drain is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. As water flows on the ground it picks up a variety of pollutants that flow into local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

