VEHICLE MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS
Stormwater Best Management Practices

ONLY RAIN BELONGS DOWN THE DRAIN!

Protect Our Waterways & Prevent Vehicle Maintenance Waste From Entering Storm Drains

Stormwater runoff is simply rainwater that does not soak into the ground, but runs off hard surfaces like paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks and rooftops. As stormwater travels, it can pick up pollutants along the way. This stormwater pollution enters our waterways and can be detrimental to water quality and aquatic life. The storm drainage system in Gastonia is a network of storm drain inlets and underground pipes that carry stormwater from our streets directly to our streams.

Fluid spills and improper disposal of materials such as oil, grease, antifreeze, etc. during or after common maintenance shop activities may result in pollutants, heavy metals and toxic materials entering our waterways through the storm drain system, creating public health and environmental risks. For this reason, it is important to understand the ways in which the vehicle maintenance industry can aid in keeping our waterways clean through the following Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are methods or activities that may help prevent stormwater pollution.

The quality of our waters depends on your actions. We can work together to protect our local water quality and comply with local, regional, and state regulations!

Report Spills or Stormwater Pollution to Stormwater Utility Administrator, Danon Lawson at 704-869-1013 or danonl@cityofgastonia.com

For more information, visit: https://regionalstormwater.org/report-pollution/

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VEHICLE MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS
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CLEANING

- Designate wash pads or service bays away from storm drains for engine, parts, or radiator cleaning.
- Do not wash or rinse parts outdoors.
- Connect shop floor drains to a pre-treatment system that removes grit and oil & grease before discharging to the sanitary sewer system.
- Never discharge cleaning solutions used for engines or parts into the storm drain, parking lot or street.

PREVENT AUTOMATIVE FLUID SPILLS

- Routinely inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks, including all vehicles entering the service area. Us drip pans under leaky vehicles or equipment.
- Tightly contain and cover all solid and liquid wastes.
- Store antifreeze, oil and other chemical containers within a confined area specifically designed for storing hazardous materials, such as a tank or drum.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Train all employees upon hiring and annually on personal safety, chemical management, and proper methods for handling and disposing of waste.
- Make sure that all employees understand storm water discharge prohibitions and these BMPs.
  - Put up instructional/informational signs around your shop for customers and employees.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Use non toxic solvents whenever feasible.
- Regularly pick up and litter and clear off storm drains on your property.
- Recycle used oil, oil filters, grease, antifreeze, etc., as well as car tires and batteries.

DEVELOP PREVENTATIVE ACTION PLANS

- Prepare a spill cleanup plan for different types of spills and train staff regularly.
- Keep absorbent materials and other spill response equipment and place in well-marked, accessible areas.
- Post emergency telephone numbers of the wastewater treatment plant and the fire department .
- Inquire about rules and regulations for pretreatment systems with the City.

REGIONAL STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP OF THE CAROLINAS

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