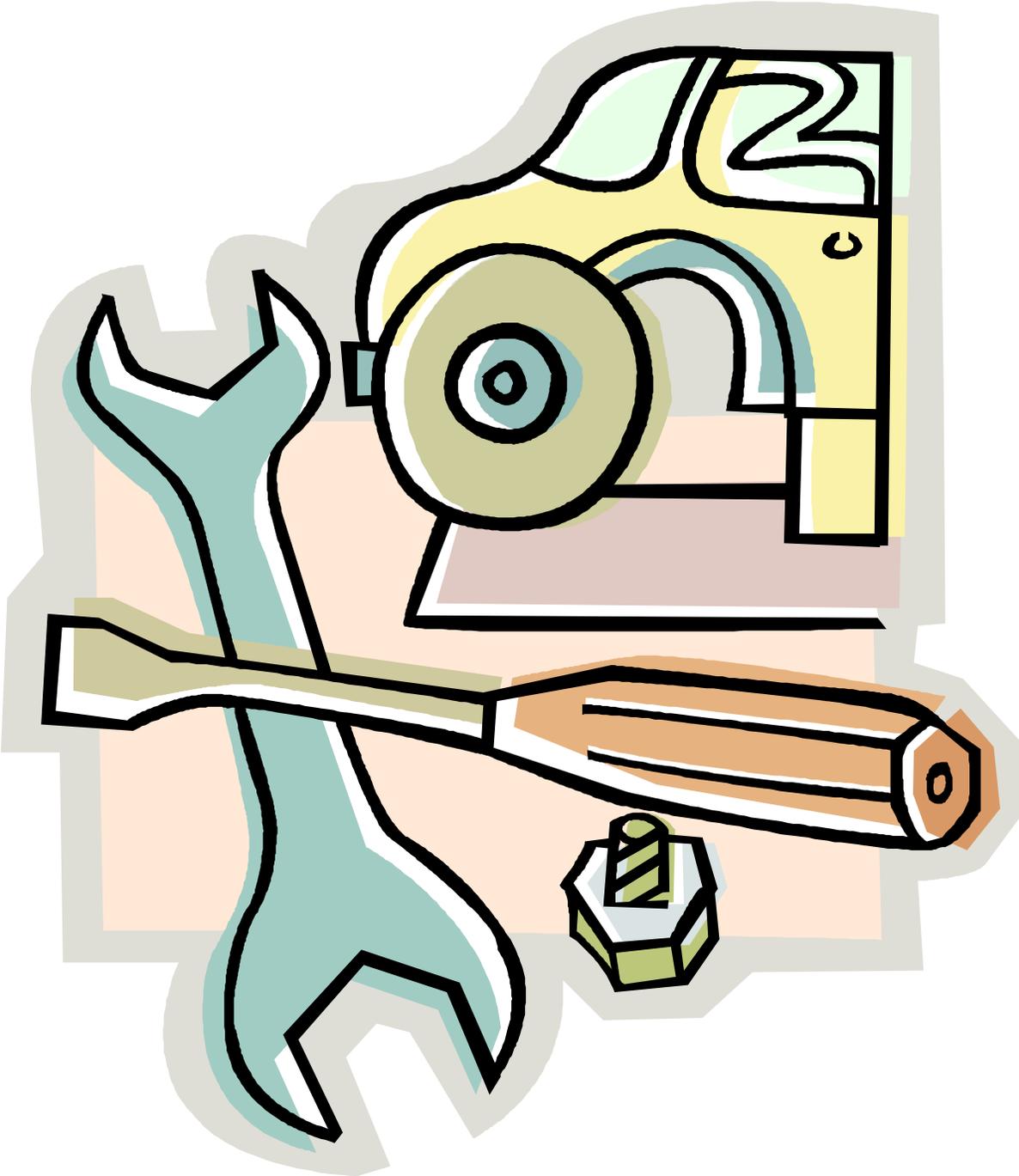


# **Storm Water Best Management Practices for the Automotive Industry**



## Common Questions

### What is Storm Water?

- Storm Water is the water that falls as rain. As it falls on structures and pavement, it picks up pollutants as it flows down the gutter.

### What are Best Management Practices?

- Methods used to prevent pollutants from entering storm water and leaving your business site.

### What is a Storm Water Discharge?

- A discharge of rainwater from your property or business site that contains pollutants such as oil, fuel, antifreeze, waste oil, solvents, dust & dirt, paint or other chemicals.

### What is a Non-Storm Water Discharge?

- A discharge of from your property or business site of water containing pollutants. This most commonly results from draining or dumping contained water or by washing down pavement, vehicles or equipment.

### Doesn't that water go into underground drains to the Wastewater Reclamation Plant to be treated?

- Storm Water goes into underground drains or above-ground channels like the V Street Channel and then directly to the Santa Ynez River and eventually the pollutants will be carried to the Pacific Ocean or into our groundwater. Storm Water is not treated, so any pollutants that get into it go straight into our water sources.

### Why is this a concern now?

- People used to feel there was plenty of water to wash trash or pollutants away and once out of sight, we did not worry about them. Unfortunately, what we can't see can hurt us and pollutants discharged into storm water are showing up in our drinking water, the environment and in people's bodies.

Our current drought is not expected to end any time soon. With less water to dilute them, pollutants become more concentrated in the environment and in our water sources.

## Storm Water Laws and Business Responsibility

The federal Clean Water Act, State Porter-Cologne Act and the City of Lompoc's Municipal Code all prohibit discharges of pollutants into storm water. Significant fines and penalties can result from non-compliance with these requirements.

As a business owner, operator or employee, you are responsible for ensuring potential storm water pollutants are properly managed. Your business will need to select and use Best Management Practices (BMPs) specific to your business operation.

### Facility Audits

Regularly review your business processes and procedures to identify improvements needed to make your business more efficient and less likely to pollute.

### Discharge Points

Review your business site to determine where storm water discharges to. It may be to a drain inlet in pavement, a channel on the side of the building or just as sheet flow to the lowest portion of your site, before it discharges to the street gutter. If you have roof gutters, where do they deposit the rain water? Do they drain to landscaping or pavement? Do you have interior or exterior drains that are connected to the Sanitary Sewer? Identify these areas on a facility map and keep it posted in a common work area, ideally next to your spill kits. Ensure these areas are identified for each employee during orientation or training sessions.

### Review Business Activities and Procedures

Each process and practice in your business operation should be reviewed to ensure it is not the source of pollutants.

### Vehicle Fluids

- ❖ Ensure Anti-freeze, waste oil and used solvents are stored, managed and disposed of properly, in accordance with local, state and federal law.
- ❖ Use drip pans, and containers to prevent spills.
- ❖ Place drip pans under vehicles known to have leaks and those disabled or stored at your business site.
- ❖ Drain vehicle fluids indoors, over impervious surfaces. Collect and transfer vehicle fluids to properly labeled waste storage containers as soon as possible. Do not drain fluids over dirt or asphalt because spilled or leaked fluids will be absorbed.
- ❖ Store vehicle fluids in separate, sealed and leak-proof containers. Provide secondary containment whenever possible or required and do not store fluids outdoors.
- ❖ Mop or collect fluids from drip pans or collection devices and transfer to separate, sealed, leak-proof containers regularly.

## **Engine and Parts Cleaning**

- ❖ Designate areas of your service bays for parts cleaning. Do not wash, rinse or store parts outdoors.
- ❖ Use aqueous cleaning solutions instead of solvents whenever possible. Recycle used solutions through a licensed hazardous waste hauler.
- ❖ Avoid using hose-off degreasers; never allow runoff to enter the storm drain system. Instead, brush off loose debris and use damp rags to wipe down parts. Manage used rages through a rag service or as hazardous waste.
- ❖ Clean parts in self-contained sinks or drum units when working with solvents. Inspect part washing units daily for leaks and make repairs immediately.
- ❖ Allow parts to drain over the solvent sink or drum, rather than allowing the solvents to drip or spill onto the floor. Never discharge the rinse solution into the sewer system.
- ❖ Recycle wastewater form steam cleaning or pressure washing activities. Discharges of wash water into the storm drain system are prohibited.

## **Body Repair and Painting**

- ❖ Conduct work indoors or under cover when possible. If this cannot be done, take other precautions to prevent discharges of pollutants from work areas.
- ❖ Inspect damaged vehicles for fluid leaks and use drip pans where necessary.
- ❖ Regularly clean work areas using dry methods such as sweeping or shop vacuum to pick up debris. Do not vacuum flammable liquids.
- ❖ Allow wet sanding debris to dry overnight on the shop floor and sweep or vacuum it the next day. Liquid must not be discharged to the storm drain system. Consider investing in sanders with an attached vacuum system to capture dust at the source.
- ❖ Conduct painting only in approved, enclosed areas equipped with vacuum hoods and filters.
- ❖ Minimize paint and thinner waste by carefully calculating paint needs, based on surface area, and by using the property sprayer cup size.
- ❖ Collect water used to control over-spray or dust in the paint booth and recycle or dispose of it properly. Clean spray guns in a self-containing unit and recycle or properly dispose of the cleaning solution.
- ❖ Check with the Lompoc Fire Department at 805-736-4513, the Lompoc Building and Safety Division at 805-875-8220, and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District at (805) 961-8800 for permit requirements for spray booths, coatings, and emissions regulations.

## **Good Housekeeping**

- ❖ Sweep or vacuum your shop floors frequently. Use mops instead of hosing down work areas.
- ❖ Sweep paved areas around your facility regularly. Do not wash using a hose.
- ❖ Provide trash cans with lids in convenient places for employees or clients, to discourage littering.
- ❖ When cleaning floors:
  - Use a hydrophobic oil absorbing mop and wring it out into a bucket or container labeled oil only.
  - Use a regular mop for spilled antifreeze and wring it out into a container labeled Antifreeze or coolant only.
  - Recycle the mopped up oil and antifreeze with your other used materials.
  - Use rags sparingly for small spills or to dry areas, use a rag service to manage the rags or ship them as hazardous waste.
  - Use a regular mop and bucket with little water for a final rinse. Dispose of any water in an oil/water separator and/or in a floor drain connected to the sanitary sewer.
  - Do not discharge pollutants by pouring cleaning water on parking lots, dirt and landscaping, sidewalks, gutters or storm drains.
  - Set up a regular inspection and cleaning schedule for your oil/water separators.
  - Do not wash down outside areas of your operation.
  - Use absorbents to address fuel spills and dispose of them as hazardous waste.

## **Material and Waste Management**

- ❖ Store fuel, solvent, batteries and oil off the ground where they will not be exposed to rain water (under a permanent overhang or indoors)
- ❖ Store batteries indoors and place used batteries in plastic trays to contain any leaks.
- ❖ Keep trash storage and disposal areas clean and free of debris and inspect weekly. Securely close trash containers when not in use.
- ❖ Consider designating a specific employee or employees to be responsible for hazardous materials management, storage and shipping.

## **Landscaping**

- ❖ Maintain any landscaping so dirt and sediment do not leave the property or reach the sidewalk or gutter.
- ❖ Apply pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, according to label instructions and never before predicted rain. Consider using less-toxic alternatives when available.

### Landscaping continued

- ❖ Use drought tolerant, native plants when replacing plant materials. Avoid using invasive plants.
- ❖ Ensure watering times and sprinklers are properly scheduled and adjusted to prevent over irrigation and water run-off.

### Spill Clean-up and Reporting

- ❖ Keep spill kits ready with absorbents, containment berms and drain inlet blockers. Make sure employees know where they are located and how to use them.
- ❖ Properly clean reusable items (berms and drain blocks) and dispose of used absorbents as hazardous waste. If needed block the storm drain inlet in the street to avoid having spilled material enter the underground drains.
- ❖ Report spills or discharges that cannot be contained and will enter the street, gutter, or storm drain channel to Lompoc City Fire, Storm Water Hotline and
- ❖ Always call 911 if the spill presents an immediate threat to public health or the environment.

**If you have questions about how best to apply these or other BMPs, please call, 805-875-8265, or 805-875-8275.**