

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SPOKANE WASTEWATER TREATMENT  
INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR AUTO REPAIR SHOPS**



**Best Management Practices (BMPs) are enforceable procedures that your business performs to comply with wastewater regulations and prevent adverse effects at treatment plants.**

◆ **Regulation**

It is unlawful for any person to discharge, or cause to be discharged, directly or indirectly any pollutants into surface water, stormwater, ground water or directly or indirectly into street (storm) drains.

**BMPs**

- Do not allow wash water to run into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Store batteries, chemicals and wastes where they will not be exposed to rainwater.
- Never dispose of any liquids on the ground, in a storm drain, or in a dry well.



◆ **Regulation**

Dangerous and hazardous wastes are prohibited from being discharged to the sanitary sewer. It is your responsibility under federal, state and local law to designate, manage and dispose of each waste properly.

**BMPs**

- Designate each waste material to determine which are dangerous and what the hazards are. Helpful information on this process can be found at [ecy.wa.gov](http://ecy.wa.gov). Search keyword "designation".
- Some waste streams of concern include fuels, solvents, oily wastes, and parts washers.
- Antifreeze should be recycled. Ethylene glycol and propylene glycol should be stored and recycled separately. For more information search "antifreeze" at the ecology website above.
- Used motor oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, lubricating oil, compressor oil, gear and metalworking fluid without chlorinated compounds are all considered used motor oil and can be mixed. If used motor oil is recycled it is not considered hazardous waste.
- Post signs above all sinks and drains prohibiting the discharge of unapproved wastes:

**SINK DRAIN IS  
FOR WATER ONLY  
DO NOT DISPOSE  
OF CHEMICALS  
IN SINK**

◆ **Regulation**

All industrial users of the sanitary sewer must comply with Prohibited Discharge Standards. Prohibited pollutants, substances, or wastewater shall not be processed or stored in such a manner that they could be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Prohibited Discharge Standards can be found online at <https://my.spokanecity.org/smc/?Section=13.03A.0201>.

**BMPs**

- Install secondary spill containment for all liquid storage, wastes and batteries.
- Spill containment must be able to hold 110% of the largest possible spill.
- Keep adequate spill prevention and clean-up materials on-site and available for use.
- Keep containers closed except when adding or removing materials.
- Immediately clean up any spills and replace any leaking containers.
- Develop and implement written spill response procedures, and train employees.
- Contents must be clearly indicated on storage and waste container labels.

## ◆ Regulation

Where installed, all grease, oil and sand interceptors must be maintained by the owner, at the owner's expense and liability, in good order and condition at all times.

### BMPs

- Develop and follow an inspection schedule for oil/water separators and sand traps.
- Contract with pumper for cleanout and waste disposal as needed.
- Retain records of inspections and pump-outs.
- Dry sweep floors before mopping or hosing down.

### Pollution Prevention Tips for Auto Shops

These tips are not enforceable, but will help your business reduce its impact on the environment.

- Develop and follow a written Environmental Management Plan, periodically inspecting shop equipment and repairing defects.
- Obtain and use on-site recycling equipment that meets air quality and fire codes.
- Drain oil filters for 24 hours before disposing in the trash.
- Spot clean spills immediately. This will cause total floor cleaning to occur less often.
- Only allow wash water to enter your floor sump or drain. Non-caustic, non-organic cleaners may be rinsed down the floor drain.
- Use environmentally preferable cleaning products.
- Remove dust from vehicles prior to washing. Discharge wash water through a treatment system or recycling unit to the sanitary sewer, or have it hauled off by a licensed hauler.
- Train employees to properly handle all mercury containing items.

<https://archive.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/assistance/sectors/web/pdf/autoguide1297.pdf>

### **Technical Advice Available for Environmental Compliance**

The Local Source Control (LSC) program at Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) visits small businesses that generate hazardous waste to evaluate their handling practices. Program specialists assess these businesses for regulatory compliance, while offering new and best management practices for improvements. The goal of the program is to identify and control contaminants entering wastewater, groundwater and stormwater at the source. Technical assistance visits are offered without charge to small quantity generators. SRHD LSC specialists can be reached at 509-324-1560 ext. 3 or by email at: [pollutionprevention@srhd.org](mailto:pollutionprevention@srhd.org)

#### **If you have any questions about how to handle your wastewater, please contact us:**

City of Spokane Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility	(509) 625-4600
Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility	(509) 536-3703
Airway Heights Water Reclamation Plant	(509) 443-5667
Hazardous waste handling: Department of Ecology	(509) 329-3400
Hazardous spills: Spokane Fire Department	9-1-1

#### Large volumes of spills to a drain:

City of Spokane:	Sewer Maintenance	(509) 625-7900
	RPWRF	(509) 625-4600
Spokane County:	Sewer Maintenance	(509) 477-1984
	SCRWRF	(509) 536-3703

City of Airway Heights:	Public Works	(509) 244-5429
	AWHWRP	(509) 443-5667

#### Solid materials & recycling:

City of Spokane Solid Waste	(509) 625-7878
Spokane County Solid Waste	(509) 477-6800

Spokane Regional Health District Local Source Control  
or by email at: [pollutionprevention@srhd.org](mailto:pollutionprevention@srhd.org) 509-324-1560 ext. 3