

Pollution Prevention in Automotive Businesses

The **County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program** supports businesses in their efforts to prevent pollution by offering these important Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).

! Water that is released into the streets, gutters, and storm drains in San Diego County IS NOT TREATED before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. All sources of pollution are prohibited from leaving your property and entering streets or storm drains. Only rainwater is allowed in the streets and storm drains. **These pollution prevention tips for your automotive business will help keep our waterways clean.**

Vehicle Fluid Management

- ❑ Store, manage, and dispose of antifreeze, waste oil, and used solvents in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- ❑ Drain vehicle fluids indoors or within covered areas.
- ❑ Drain fluids over floors that are non-porous such as concrete.
- ❑ Use drip pans, containers, or other methods of drip and spill containment.
- ❑ Use drip pans under stored vehicles and those with known leaks.
- ❑ Promptly drain fluids from disabled or stored vehicles to prevent leaks and spills.
- ❑ Store vehicle fluids in separate, sealed, and leak-proof containers.

Vehicle & Equipment Washing

- ❑ Contact your local sewer agency for discharge information to the sanitary sewer. Separators and wastewater recycling systems may have special discharge requirements.
- ❑ Wash vehicles in dedicated areas located away from and that do not drain to storm drain inlets or water bodies.
- ❑ Use a spray nozzle or rinse bucket to conserve water and minimize water discharge.
- ❑ Use a commercial car wash facility if you are not able to meet the minimum standards described here.

more tips >>>

we can
**protect our
waterways**

with just
a few steps.



For more information, call the Stormwater Hotline at **(888) 846-0800** or visit **www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater** for the WPO.



Engine & Parts Cleaning

- ❑ Wash parts only in designated areas inside service bays.
- ❑ Clean parts in self-contained sinks or drum units when working with solvents.
- ❑ Inspect parts washing units daily for leaks and make immediate repairs.
- ❑ Drain parts over a solvent sink or drum.
- ❑ Recycle wastewater from steam cleaning or pressure washing activities.

Body Repair & Painting

- ❑ Conduct work indoors under cover. Take precautions to prevent discharges from work areas when indoor work is not possible.
- ❑ Use a sander with an attached vacuum system to capture dust at the source.
- ❑ Conduct painting in approved, enclosed areas equipped with vacuum hoods and filters.
- ❑ Check with your local fire agency, the County of San Diego Hazardous Materials Division, and the Air Pollution Control District for additional information and permit requirements for spray booths, coatings, and emissions.

Floors & Paved Surfaces

- ❑ Use dry methods such as sweeping or vacuuming to clean up dust and debris.
- ❑ Only use dry methods to clean around fuel-dispensing islands.
- ❑ Use a three mop system:
 - a. Remove any spilled oil using a hydrophobic (oil absorbing) mop and wring out oil into a bucket labeled “Used Oil Only” and dispose of accordingly.
 - b. Mop up antifreeze using a regular mop and wring it out into a bucket labeled “Used Coolant Only” and dispose of accordingly.
 - c. Use a regular mop and bucket with detergent as a final rinse and dispose of properly. Check with your local sewer agency for discharge information to the sanitary sewer.

Employee Training

- ❑ Train all employees on stormwater BMPs, pollution prevention, and spill clean up.
- ❑ Maintain training records on site.

For more information and other ideas, check with local health and sewer agencies, trade association newsletters, and magazines.

⚠ Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the storm drain system or waterways is a violation of the County’s Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). ***Your business is required to comply with the WPO and the above minimum BMPs.***

thank you for doing your part to protect our waterways.



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Additional Resources

Vehicle Service and Repair (VSR): <https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtsc-website-archive/vehicle-service-and-repair-vsr/>