

# Ocean Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us!

Hermosa Beach has two drainage systems - the sewers and the storm drains. The sewer system takes waste from homes and businesses to a treatment plant before discharging to the ocean. The storm drain system is designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets out to the ocean.

Rain water mixed with urban pollutants may create stormwater pollution. Urban runoff pollution may also flow to the ocean through the storm drain system. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates the ocean, closes beaches, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

In Hermosa Beach, there are many miles of pipes that would take similar pollutants straight to the ocean. Each day many gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our surf and tons of trash on our beaches.

This pamphlet has been put together to inform you how to prevent ocean pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will help ensure a cleaner ocean and city.



## -Spill Response Agencies:

City of Hermosa Beach  
Department of Public Works  
(310) 318-0212

City of Hermosa Beach  
Police Department  
(310) 318-0317

Hermosa Beach Fire Department  
(310) 376-2479



## Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal:

City of Hermosa Beach  
Department of Public Works  
(310) 318-0212

Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
(562) 699-7411  
[www.lacsdsd.org](http://www.lacsdsd.org)

## To Report Illegal Dumping:

City of Hermosa Beach  
Department of Public Works  
(310) 318-0212

Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Works  
(888) CLEANLA

## To Report a Clogged Catch Basin:

City of Hermosa Beach  
Department of Public Works  
(310) 318-0212

Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Works  
(626) 458-HELP

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets regarding storm drain pollution prevention measures. Other pamphlets include:



Food Service Industry

Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application

General Construction & Site Supervision

Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities

Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control

Home Repair & Remodeling

Painting

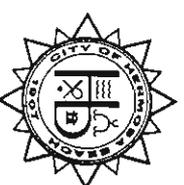
Roadwork & Paving



For more information about storm drain pollution prevention or additional brochures, call:

City of Hermosa Beach  
Department of Public Works  
(310) 318-0212

<http://hermosabch.org/>  
or visit  
[www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com)



John L. Hunter and Associates  
Automotive Maintenance & Car Care BMP brochure 9/28/00

# Stormwater

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Automotive

Maintenance  
& Car Care



Gas Stations  
Auto Repair Shops  
Auto Body Shops  
Car Dealerships  
Mobile Fleet Managers  
Mobile Fleet Washing  
Businesses

# Car Maintenance Problems



Many common car maintenance routines contribute to ocean pollution. Practices such as washing cars or pouring used motor oil into a gutter or storm drain pollutes the ocean.

Water runoff from streets, parking lots and driveways picks up oil and grease dripped from cars, asbestos worn from brake linings, zinc from tires and organic compounds and metals from spilled fuels. Through this runoff, these chemicals drain into the ocean, harming sea life.

Oil and grease, for example, clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. If oxygen levels in the water become too low, aquatic animals die.

## Solutions



Best Management Practices such as handling, storing, and disposing of materials properly can prevent pollutants from entering the storm drains.

### Cleaning Work Sites

It is best to sweep regularly and only hose down your shop floor if it drains to the sewer through appropriate oil and sand traps. For information about proper disposal of industrial waste, call the City of Hermosa Beach Public Works Department at (310) 318-0212.

Use non-toxic cleaning products. Baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps and chrome; mix the soda with a mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to clean wheels and tires; for windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water.

## Spill prevention

Prepare and use easy to find spill containment and cleanup kits. Include safety equipment and cleanup materials appropriate to the type and quantity of materials that could spill.

Pour kity litter, sawdust or cornmeal on spills. For disposal instructions, call the L.A. County Sanitation District at (562) 966-7411 or visit [www.lacsdsd.org](http://www.lacsdsd.org)



## Leak Control

- Regular maintenance prevents fluids from leaking onto streets and washing into storm drains. It is also good for business.

- Change fluids carefully. Use a drip pan to avoid spills.

- Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as oil and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage and dispose of properly.

- Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills. Use a funnel when pouring liquids (like lubricants or motor oil) and place a tray underneath to catch spills. Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers. Clean up spills immediately.



## Proper Fueling of Vehicles

Gas and diesel spills are common when fueling vehicles. To minimize pollution:

- Design fueling areas so that all spills are contained and runoff cannot carry spills into storm drains. Equip the drain with a shutoff valve in the event of a large spill.
- Cover the fueling area to keep rain from washing away spilled materials. Extend the cover several feet beyond the containment area.
- Keep absorbent materials on-site to allow prompt cleanup of all spills.
- Post signs instructing people not to overfill gas tanks.



## Washing of Vehicles

Prevent oil and grease, suspended solids and toxics from washing into storm drains.

Designate a washing site where water drains to the sewer system (industrial waste permit may be required).

The area must be paved and well marked as a wash area. Post signs prohibiting oil changes and washing with solvents. Train all employees to use the designated area.



## Recycle

Recycle what you must:

Section 25250 of the Health and Safety Code requires used motor oil recycling.

Section 25215 of the Health and Safety Code requires lead acid battery recycling.

Recycle what you can:

- Metal scraps
- Water-based paints
- Used tires
- Paper and cardboard
- Container glass, aluminum, and tin.



## Employee & Customer Education

Raise both employee and customer awareness:

- Educate your employees. Include water quality training in new-employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions.
- Educate your customers. Stencil storm drains inlets near the work place with stencil "No Dumping: This Drains to the Ocean."

