A Clean Environment is Important to All of Us!

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries, flow directly into creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial waters from factories have been greatly reduced. However now, the majority of water pollution occurs from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, failing septic tanks, pet waste and residential car washing into the storm drains and into the ocean and waterways.

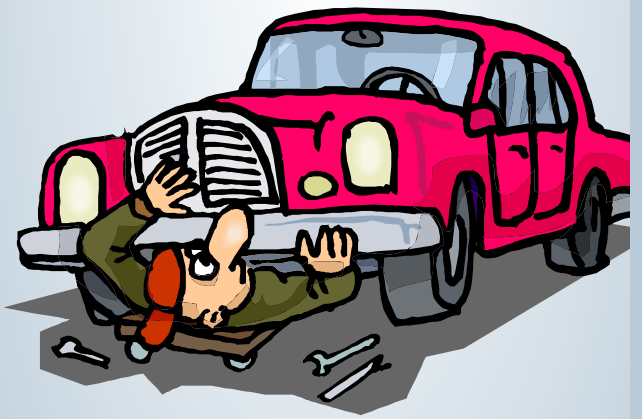
All these sources add up to a pollution problem! But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to a pollution solution!

For further information contact:

CITY OF BELLFLOWER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
9944 FLORA VISTA STREET
BELLFLOWER, CA 90706
(562) 804-1424, ext. 2233

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE AND REPAIR SHOPS



City of Bellflower

Best Management Practices

Automotive service and repair shops contribute to storm water pollution through improper cleaning practices that allow oil, grease, cleaners, trash and other pollutants to flow into the street, gutter or storm drain. Pollutants deposited on surfaces, such as parking lot s and driveways, are washed away by rainwater and enter the storm drain system. These discharges pollute our creeks, lagoons and ocean and are prohibited by law. Below are recommended Best Management Practices for Automotive Service and Repair Shops.

Operate a Clean, Dry Shop

- Sweep, mop or vacuum the shop floor frequently.
- Designate specific areas indoors for parts cleaning.
- Clean up any spill immediately.
- Keep rags, damp mops, absorbents and other cleaning supplies readily accessible in all work areas.
- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning with solvents.
- NEVER sweep or flush wastes into a sanitary sewer or storm drain.

Protect Storm Drains Located on Your Property

- Label all storm drain inlets on your property.
- Inspect drain frequently for debris. Remove debris and dispose of it in the trash or other appropriate manner.
- Mop, sweep or vacuum working areas and parking lots frequently.
- NEVER use a hose to wash down an area and avoid using blowers which only displace residue.

Prevent Spills and Leaks

- Use drip pans and ground cloths beneath vehicles if you have leaks or when doing engine work.
- Avoid performing repairs or work in exterior areas that are exposed to rainwater.
- Drain fluids from leaking or wrecked vehicles as soon as possible.
- Promptly transfer drained fluids to a designated waste storage area.
- Place bulk fluids, waste fluids and batteries in a secondary containment to capture accidental spills.

Dispose of Wastewater Properly

- Soapy or oily vehicle wash waters must be pumped to the sanitary sewer system and may require installation of an oil-water separator.
- If the waste water from your facility is not pumped to the sanitary sewer, you must capture and collect the water so it may be disposed of at an off-site location.
- NEVER allow wastewater to enter the storm drain.

Dispose of Hazardous Materials Properly

- Follow all hazardous materials and waste disposal requirements.
- Remember that oil or solvent-saturated absorbent must handled as hazardous waste.
- Make sure solid waste containers are in good condition and secured against wind, leakage or other elements.

Protect Outdoor Work and Storage Areas

- If work or materials storage must be done outdoors, berm the area to trap pollutants in a confined area and protect from rain.
- If you have an outdoor drain that is connected to a sanitary sewer, cover the area to prevent rain water from entering the sewer system.

Employee Training

- Use signage to label storm drains.
- Ensure that all employees know the location of storm drains on the property.
- Educate employees on the proper way to clean up spills and prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain.

Practice Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Recycle used motor oil and oil filters.
- Collect all used oil in containers with tight fitting lids. Do not mix different engine fluids.
- Reuse wash water and water used in flushing and testing radiators.