



Automotive Maintenance & Car Care Facilities

Town of Oro Valley Stormwater Utility Best Practices

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

Water runoff from streets, parking lots and driveways picks up oil, grease, asbestos, zinc and other metals and organic compounds from cars and spilled fuel. These chemicals eventually make their way into our storm drains, harming our environment. We greatly appreciate your continued assistance in preventing these hazards from entering the storm drain by following these Automotive Maintenance and Service Best Management Practices.

1. Cleaning Work Sites

- Don't hose down your shop floor. It is best to sweep it regularly.
- Use non-toxic cleaning products. Baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps and chrome. For wheels and tires, mix soda with a mild biodegradable dishwashing soap. For windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water.

2. Spills

- Prepare and use easy-to-find spill containment and cleanup kits. Include safety equipment and cleanup materials appropriate for the type and quantity of materials that may spill.
- For small spills, pour kitty litter, sawdust or cornmeal onto binding liquids. For information on proper disposal, contact the Pima Department of Environmental Quality, 520-724-7400.

3. Fluids

- Your customer's regular car 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 unused gas, transmission and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage.
- 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.

4. Washing Vehicles

- Prevent oil grease, suspended solids and toxins from washing into the storm drains.
- Designate a washing site where water drains to the sanitary sewer system. 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.
- Wash vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent. Use a bucket (not a running hose) to wash and rinse the car and conserve water.

5. Fueling Vehicles

- Gas and diesel spills are common when fueling vehicles.
- Design fuel areas so that all spills are contained. This helps to ensure that runoff cannot carry spills into storm drains. Slope the containment area toward drains connected to the sanitary sewer system. 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 spills. Post signs instructing people not to overfill gas tanks. Overfilling causes spills and vents gas fumes into the air.

6. Recycle

- Recycle what you can: metal scraps, used tires, aluminum, used oils, water-based paints, paper and cardboard, and antifreeze.

7. Employee and Customer Education

- Educate your employees. Include water quality training in new employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions. Contact the Stormwater Utility at 520-229-4850 if you need assistance.
- Educate your customers. Raise both employee and customer awareness by stenciling storm drains near the work place with the placard: "NO DUMPING. Drains to the municipal storm sewer system."