TIPS FOR A CLEANER BAY

How Your Vehicle Service Facility Can Prevent Stormwater Pollution

cleanwater
PROGRAM

Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay

YOU CAN PREVENT WATER POLLUTION!

Storm drains flow directly into creeks and the Bay without any treatment. Because of this direct connection, water and other wastes that flow into a storm drain can easily cause pollution. It is the responsibility of your business to ensure that only rainwater enters the stormdrains near your operations. If wastes and wash waters from your business practices (such as car wash waters, oil or auto fluids) enter the system, you may have to pay for clean up costs and fines, have permits revoked, or even go to jail for causing stormwater pollution.

The pollution prevention practices outlined in this booklet will help your business stay in compliance with laws designed to protect stormwater and the environment. The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff make it easy for businesses to understand the water pollution regulations that affect them. If you have questions, contact your local stormwater agency *(See Local Regulatory Contacts, page 8).*

Sewer or Storm Drain?

In order to choose the most appropriate practice, it is important to determine whether a drain is a storm drain or a sanitary sewer. In general, drains inside the building are connected to the sanitary sewer, and outside drains (except for capped sanitary sewer "cleanouts") are connected to the storm drain system. Sanitary sewer cleanouts are usually 6 inches in diameter or smaller, and storm drain inlets are larger, but there are exceptions.

If your shop has floor drains, contact your local sanitary sewer treatment agency for requirements for discharging to the sanitary sewer.

Storm Drain: An outdoor drain that flows directly to creeks and the Bay.

Sanitary Sewer Drain: An indoor drain that flows to the Sewage Treatment Plant.

GENERAL POLLUTION PREVENTION

THREE IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. Protect your storm drain inlets from pollution of any kind. Remember, only rain down the storm drain.
2. Protect your sanitary sewer from all vehicle fluids.
3. Always dry-clean spills. Never wash spills down the storm drain.

The best practices listed below are critical to protecting our water quality:

- Label/stencil each drain inlet to remind workers and customers that no dumping is allowed.
- Keep surfaces clean. Do not allow fluids to accumulate or run across surfaces.
- Clean up spills immediately with rags, absorbents, or wet/dry vacuum. Never allow vehicle fluids to flow into a storm or sanitary sewer drain inlet. Properly dispose of spent absorbent.
- Routinely inspect and clean:
  - *Storm drain inlets (grates and sumps),*
  - *Fueling areas,*
  - *Parking areas,*
  - *Work areas,*
  - *Trash/compactor areas,*
  - *Waste storage areas, and*
  - *Wastewater pretreatment equipment like sand and oil interceptor for proper functioning.*
- **Perform the following work indoors or under cover:**
  - *Any activities that might generate small particles or dust, like metal filings, brake dust, paint chips, etc. from sanding, painting, or brake removal.*
  - *Activities that might spill liquids, such as oil changing, radiator work, parts cleaning, etc.*
- Use drip pans, secondary containment, and absorbents to control spills.
- Inspect vehicles for drips and place drip pans under leaking vehicles.
- Drain fluids from leaking or wrecked vehicles immediately.

OUTDOOR STORAGE

- Store parts and equipment inside or in enclosed areas. Raise and cover all outdoor storage, especially new or used vehicle parts, metals, or potential pollutants.
- Cover or enclose waste bins and exposed materials with tarps or PVC enclosures when indoor storage or more permanent containers and coverings are impractical.
- Use secondary containment in a roofed, enclosed area when storing fluids outside.
- Store all items as far as possible from

IF YOU STORE VEHICLE FLUIDS OUTDOORS:

1. Keep a roof and walls around your vehicle fluids to protect them from rain.
2. Keep containers elevated to protect them from water run-off.
3. Place primary containers inside double containment.

TIP

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Train new employees upon hiring to use these practices, and have annual refresher trainings.
- Post signs to remind employees how vehicle fluids and wastes must be stored.

WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

- Vehicle fluids must be properly managed and cannot be disposed in the garbage, sanitary sewer, or storm drain.
- Recycle motor oil, filters, antifreeze, paints, solvents, batteries (auto and household), parts, fluorescent lights, and lubricants.
- Use separate, appropriate, clean, sealed, fully enclosed or roofed, and secondarily contained storage for used motor oil, antifreeze and other liquids, wastes or recyclables. Label containers as required by hazardous waste regulations.

WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING:

1. Don't dispose to storm drain. Recycle, whenever possible.
2. Divide wastes by type and store separately in sealed containers.
3. Insist on garbage dumpsters with working lids from your

TIP

CONSULT YOUR LOCAL HAZARDOUS WASTE AGENCY

- Consult your local hazardous waste agency about hazardous materials disposal and handling. See back page for contact information.

VEHICLE WASHING

VEHICLE WASHING:

1. Wash vehicles under a roof.
2. Contain washwater within a bermed wash pad.
3. Connect wash pad to treatment device plumbed to sanitary sewer.

- Direct all washwater to the sanitary sewer.
- Wash vehicles on a wash pad that is roofed, bermed, and connected to a washwater treatment system and the sanitary sewer. Contact your local sanitary sewer treatment agency for approval. (See back page.)
- Contact your local jurisdiction to confirm if your connection to the sanitary sewer requires a plumbing permit.
- Maintain and clean all vehicle washing systems on a regular schedule.
- Dispose of collected solids using a licensed waste hauler.
- Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash or use waterless cleaning methods, if the conditions described above cannot be met.

TIP

CONSULT YOUR LOCAL SANITARY SEWER TREATMENT AGENCY

Consult your local sanitary sewer treatment agency for advice and approval regarding your vehicle washing system.

ENGINE PARTS CLEANING & RADIATOR FLUSHING

- ***Only rain down the storm drain.*** Never discharge any fluids, including aqueous cleaning solutions, solvents, water used in flushing and testing radiators, or wastewater from steam cleaning or cleaning engine/ parts, to a storm drain, creek, pavement, gutter, street, or ground.
- Wash or rinse parts indoors in designated properly contained areas. Reuse and recycle rinse/washwaters. Do not dispose this waste down the sanitary sewer or storm drain.
- Clean brake dust off with damp towels or vacuum with HEPA filtration. Alternatively, use recirculating aqueous or solvent based parts washing units (parts cleaners). Avoid using aerosol cans to clean brakes and other parts.

AUTO BODY WORK

- Minimize use of hose-off degreasers to clean body parts before painting. Instead, brush off loose debris and use rags to wipe down parts.
- Clean spray guns in a self-contained cleaning unit.
- Recycle the cleaning solution when it becomes too dirty to use.
- Never discharge cleaning waste to the sanitary sewer or storm drain.
- Immediately sweep, vacuum, or use other dry cleanup methods to pick up dust from sanding metal or body filler. Do not track dust outside or wash to storm drain.

MERCURY AND COPPER

MERCURY

- Mercury contaminates fish making them unsafe to eat. The state health agency has issued detailed health advisories that are available at www.oehha.ca.gov/ fish/general/sfbaydelta.html
- Properly recycle or dispose all mercury-containing products as hazardous waste, including fluorescent lamps and vehicle switches with mercury. In order to prevent contamination of fish, it is illegal to dispose of any of these wastes as trash with your regular garbage.
- Consult the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's website for detailed information on how to properly remove mercury switches from vehicle hoods and trunks, and other requirements for controlling mercury wastes: www.dtsc.ca.gov/ HazardousWaste/ Mercury/

COPPER

- Copper in the Bay is a serious environmental problem because it may harm marine life.
- Collect all dust from brakes and dispose of the dust or brake washwaters as hazardous wastes.
- Use no-copper or low copper containing brake pad replacements, if possible.

LOCAL REGULATORY CONTACTS

Local Stormwater Agencies

Alameda ..... (510) 747-7930
Albany ..... (510) 528-5770
Berkeley ..... (510) 981-7460
Dublin ..... (925) 833-6650
Emeryville ..... (510) 596-3728
Fremont ..... (510) 494-4570
Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900
Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100
Newark ..... (510) 578-4286
Oakland ..... (510) 238-6544
Piedmont ..... (510) 420-3050
Pleasanton ..... (925) 931-5511
San Leandro ..... (510) 577-3401
Unincorporated Alameda County ..... (510) 567-6700
Union City ..... (510) 675-5301
Clean Water Program ..... (510) 670-5543

Local Hazardous Waste Agencies

(Certified Unified Program Agencies – CUPAs)

Alameda County Environmental Health ..... (510) 567-6780
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Emeryville, Newark, Piedmont, San Lorenzo, and Sunol.)
Berkeley Toxics ..... (510) 981-7460
Fremont Fire ..... (510) 494-4213
Hayward Fire ..... (510) 583-4910
Livermore-Pleasanton Fire ..... (925) 454-2362
Oakland Fire ..... (510) 238-3927
San Leandro Environmental Services ..... (510) 577-3401
Union City Environmental Programs ..... (510) 675-5358

Local Sanitary Sewer Treatment Agencies

East Bay Municipal Utility District ..... (510) 287-1651
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, and Piedmont. Also contact your City, regarding sewer connection.)
Dublin-San Ramon Services District ..... (925) 828-0515
(Serves Dublin. Also contact City of Pleasanton)
Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900
Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100
Oro Loma Sanitary District ..... (510) 276-4700
(Serves communities of San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, unincorporated San Leandro and Hayward)
Castro Valley Sanitary District ..... (510) 537-0757
San Leandro ..... (510) 577-3401
Union Sanitary District ..... (510) 477-7500
(Serves Fremont, Newark and Union City)

Your business may need to be regulated by several State and Local agencies for environmental compliance. In addition to following these stormwater pollution prevention practices, you may need to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's Stormwater Industrial General Permit.
Call: (916) 341-5538 for more information.

CONSIDER BECOMING A GREEN BUSINESS

The Bay Area Green Business Program certifies small to medium-sized businesses as green and recognizes Green Businesses through promotion and public recognition. To become a certified green business, Program staff will verify that your business is complying with environmental regulations and taking actions to conserve resources and prevent pollution. For more information, visit www.greenbiz.ca.gov.

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Simple changes to your operations and maintenance can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy. Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.

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