



Stormwater Best Management Practices for Vehicle Repair Facilities

Federal regulations require stormwater protection practices to be in place in municipal operations and businesses that have the potential to pollute stormwater. Vehicle and equipment maintenance facilities are potential “hot spots” where stormwater can pick up pollutants as it flows over parking areas and streets to a storm drain. Anything entering a storm sewer system flows untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

As an example of the harm that stormwater runoff can cause, an estimated 180 million gallons of used oil is disposed improperly each year (Alameda CCWP, 1992), and a single quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water (DNREC, 1994). Potential stormwater pollutants from vehicle repair facilities include solvents, antifreeze, brake fluid, batteries, motor oil, and fuels. These pollutants may reach stormwater as the result of leaks, spills, or improper storage or disposal.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The objective in stormwater protection is that **only rainwater and snow melt go down the storm drain**. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific steps to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities in a vehicle maintenance facility. The BMPs address not only direct flow of pollutants to storm drains, but also “threatened discharges” where there is a high probability for stormwater pollution (such as a leaking waste oil drum without secondary containment or any spills or wastes that have been released and are not actively being cleaned up). All maintenance facility staff shall review this information sheet as a training tool, and make every effort to keep pollutants from going down the storm drain by putting the following BMPs into practice.

Activity	Best Management Practices
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not dump any liquids or other materials outside. Materials that are no longer contained in a pipe, tank, or other container are considered to be “threatened discharges” to stormwater unless they are actively being cleaned up. Direct flow of pollutants as well as threatened discharges to storm drains, gutters, or waterways are illegal.
Material Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not store any liquids or materials that could impact surface water outside unless adequate secondary containment and cover are provided or the container is specifically designed for outdoor storage.
Fueling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post signage prohibiting “topping off” and describing spill response procedures. Keep a spill response kit at or near each fueling area. Require that the person doing the fueling remain present during entire fueling operation. (“Don’t walk away!”)
Bulk Liquid Material Loading & Unloading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During bulk liquid transfer, cover or berm around all down-gradient storm drain inlets within 25 feet. Keep all drain valves in liquid bulk containers and secondary containments locked in the closed position. Require that at least one trained person (i.e. delivery truck driver) remain present during entire liquid bulk transfer operations.
Maintenance Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No maintenance or repair work is performed outside. Only emergency repairs and maintenance activities that do not involve fluids may be performed outdoors.
Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not wash vehicles outside unless in a specifically designated wash area that drains to the sanitary sewer. Post signs showing which drains go to sanitary.
Spill Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use spill prevention methods to ensure no hazardous materials reach the floor or ground. Keep spill cleanup equipment in or near all work areas and use only “dry” cleanup methods to manage spills. Develop a formal Spill Response Plan. Post the plan near spill cleanup materials.
Stormwater Runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a map of the property, identifying directions of stormwater flow and storm drains. Stencil (decal) storm drains on or near the facility.

Watershed Approach to Stream Health (WASH)

To cost-effectively meet stormwater regulations and the region's water quality needs, several municipal governments in the Boulder Creek and St. Vrain watersheds joined together as part of the Watershed Approach to Stream Health (WASH) Project. Participants include Boulder County; the cities of Boulder, Longmont and Louisville; and the towns of Superior and Erie. The primary goal of the WASH Project is to implement a regional stormwater management program and to address broader water quality and watershed issues common to the Boulder Creek and St. Vrain Creek drainage areas. WASH is partnering with the PACE Program to help municipal operations and businesses implement stormwater BMPs.



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