

Stormwater and the Automotive Industry



Safe Environmental Habits and
Procedure for:

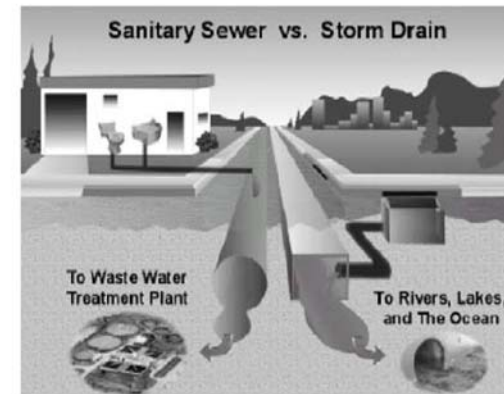
Auto Body & Repair Shops
Car Dealerships
Gas Stations
Mobile Fleet Managers
Mobile Fleet Washing Business



Storm drains vs. Sanitary Sewer

Storm drain and sanitary sewer systems have two distinct functions. It is very important to understand the difference.

Catch basins are the entryway into the **Storm Drain System** and are typically located at the bottom of a hill or at street corners. This system collects and transports water and other liquids away from these areas and out to a local waterbody untreated. The Storm Drain System does not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers.



The **Sanitary Sewer System** collects wastewater from indoor plumbing such as sinks, toilets, washing machines, and floor drains where it is transported through underground pipes to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged back into a river.

**For more information go to:
cambridgema.gov/stormwater**

Stormwater Pollution Solutions

Best Management Practices for the Automotive Industry

Improper disposal of automotive waste materials is harmful to the environment, hazardous to public health and violates state law. Waste materials from automobiles include used motor oil and filters, antifreeze, chemicals, fuel, metal filings, and much more. Even water-soluble cleaning products contain chemicals that are harmful to aquatic life and drinking water supplies.

BMPs include:

Preventing leaks and spills.

Avoid spills by emptying and wiping drip pans when you move them to another vehicle or when they are half-full.

Routinely inspect equipment to wipe up sills and repair leaks.

Place large pans or an inflatable portable berm under wrecked cars.

Drain all fluids from wrecked vehicles or “parts” cars you keep on site.

Cleaning spills.

Clean-up small spills immediately using shop rags.

Keep dry absorbent materials and/or a wet/dry vacuum cleaner on hand for mid-sized spills.

Contain large spills immediately; block or shut off floor and parking lot drains and notify the proper authorities.

Train all employees to be familiar with hazardous spill response plans and emergency procedures.

Changing automotive fluids.

Designate an area away from storm or sanitary sewer drains to change automotive fluids.

Collect, separate, and recycle motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, and gear oil.

Drain brake fluid and other non-recyclables into a proper container and handle as a hazardous waste.

Use a radiator flushing fluid that can be recycled and add it to the waste antifreeze.

Working on transmissions, engines, and miscellaneous repairs.

Keep a drip pan or wide low-rimmed container under vehicles to catch fluids whenever you unclip hoses, unscrew filters, or change parts, to contain unexpected leaks.

Cleaning work areas.

Sweep or vacuum the shop floor frequently.

Damp mop work area—do not hose down work areas into the parking lot, street or gutter.

Do not pour mop water into the parking lot, street, gutter or storm drain system.

Use non-toxic cleaning products whenever possible.

Cleaning parts.

Clean parts in a self-contained unit, solvent sink, or parts washer to prevent solvents and grease from entering the sewer or storm drain.

Identify and control wastewater discharges.

Ensure that shop sinks and floor drains are connected to the sanitary sewer system. Check with the local sewer authority regarding permitting or other requirements.

Outdoor parking and auto maintenance.

Treat outdoor areas as an extension of your service bays or avoid using altogether.

Sweep-up trash and dirt from outdoor parking and maintenance areas. Do not hose down areas. All non-storm water discharges are prohibited.

Drain work areas to sanitary sewer drain rather than a storm drain. Contact the local sewer authority to determine if pretreatment is required.

Washing vehicles, cleaning engines, and other steam cleaning.

For occasional car exterior cleaning, minimize the water used and divert runoff to landscaped areas, keep it out of the storm drain system.

Wash vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents.

Make sure no wastewater from engine or parts cleaning or steam cleaning is discharged where it may flow to a street, gutter, parking lot or storm drain system.



For more information:
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