



## Stormwater Pollution Prevention

# Auto-Related Industry

### Dear Owner/Manager:

You and your staff play an important role in keeping pollution out of the storm drain system and out of local streams. This stormwater protection guide is provided to help you comply with environmental storm drain system requirements within your local municipality and the county. It is illegal for unauthorized wastes or wash waters from your business to enter the **storm drain system**. You may have to pay for clean-up costs, fines, or encounter more stringent measures as a result of an incident through local, state, and federal regulations. The County's knowledgeable staff make it easy for businesses to understand the water pollution regulations that affect them. If you have questions, you may contact your local municipality or the County agency contact on the back of this brochure.

## What is Stormwater Pollution?

The term stormwater is used to describe water from rain or snow. Stormwater that does not soak into the ground becomes surface runoff from roof tops, parking lots, streets, yards, and other impervious surfaces. This

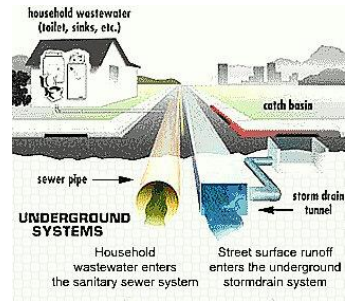
runoff flows into surface waterways or is channeled through storm drains.



Improper disposal of auto-related materials, such as fuel, oil, washwater, solvents, and other auto fluids, that come into contact with stormwater runoff can cause pollutants to enter the storm drain system and breakdown in the local waters. These pollutants may increase heavy metals and toxic chemicals, affect aquatic life, and impact water quality.

## Storm Drain vs. Sanitary Sewer?

Most storm drains flow directly into streams without any treatment. Newer storm drain systems may flow into a stormwater management facility and discharge to streams or infiltrate into the groundwater with potential contaminants.



Gaithersburgmd.gov, 10/9/15

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm drain system is NOT connected to the wastewater treatment plant. The sanitary sewer system takes wastewater from your restaurant (toilets, sinks, dishwashers, and property connected mop/clean up sinks) and sends it to a treatment plant that removes contaminants before it is released.

## Good Housekeeping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Employ these Good Housekeeping BMPs to help prevent stormwater runoff pollution into nearby storm drain systems and waterways.

### Know Your Work Site and Keep It Clean

- ♦ Update site sketch plans to reflect current plumbing connections, drains, and pipes.
- ♦ Identify specific activities with potential to cause spills or leak pollutants, such as grease, oils, fuel, etc. Designate specific areas for these activities where spills could be more easily contained and cleaned up.
- ♦ Keep spill clean-up kits readily accessible to all work areas.
- ♦ Sweep or vacuum the floor daily.

### Prevent Spills & Leaks

- ♦ Check equipment, wipe up spills, and repair leaks on a daily basis.
- ♦ Ensure waste containers are in good condition and secured against wind and leakage.
- ♦ Contain cracked batteries to prevent hazardous spills.

- Designate an area to drain vehicle fluids away from storm drains.
- Empty drip pans into labeled, sealed containers.
- Monitor parked vehicles for leaks and place pans under leaks to collect fluids for proper disposal or recycling.

### Use Proper Clean Up Measures

- Use dry methods for spill cleanup (sweeping, cat litter, or absorbent). Use as little water as possible. Don't hose down spills outside.
- Use drain mats to cover drains in the event of a spill.
- Promptly dispose of collected fluids into secondary containment, using hazardous waste drum when required.

### Control Outdoor Washing Activities

- Wash vehicles in designated areas. Never discharge wash water into the street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Use oil separators, and dispose of other soapy water into sanitary sewer (both as required or allowed by law).
- Use a spray nozzle or bucket when possible to conserve water and minimize wastewater. Use a commercial car wash facility if site is not equipped properly for vehicle washing.

### Reduce Waste and Recycle

- Minimize the number of solvents used to make recycling easier and to reduce hazardous waste management costs.
- Recycle and reuse solvents and other fluids where applicable and when possible.
- Carefully calculate paint and thinner needs before using.

### Use Safer Alternatives

- Use non-hazardous cleaners when possible.
- Replace chlorinated organic solvents with non-chlorinated ones like kerosene or mineral spirits.

### Protect Outdoor Work and Storage Areas

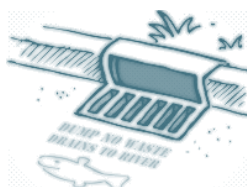
- Store materials and waste off the ground and under roof so they will not be exposed to precipitation. If not under roof, cover with an impervious material.
- If work must be done outdoors, prevent runoff from reaching storm drain inlets by berming and/or covering work areas.

### Clean Engines and Parts Properly

- Use steam cleaning and pressure washing or water-based solutions instead of cleaning parts with solvent.
- Clean parts in a self-contained unit, solvent sink, or parts washer to prevent solvents and grease from entering a storm drain.

### Label and Inspect Storm Drain Inlets

- Label storm inlets at your site to alert employees that no fluids should be discharged to these drains.



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- Regularly remove trash and debris from storm drain inlets to prevent accumulated pollutants from washing into them.

### Train and Educate Employees

- Ensure employees understand the effect their daily activities could have on water quality, as they are more likely to respond to training.
- Include stormwater pollution prevention / water quality training in employee orientations, reviews, and staff meetings.
- Read and review this guide, sign, and date a training log.

### Conduct Routine Inspections

- Perform routine inspections to help ensure your work site complies with stormwater requirements.
- Make sure all pipes inside your business are properly connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- Review your current practices and look for areas where you can improve. Use the *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Self-Inspection Checklist and Action Plan* to assist with this process.
- Record any changes you make to document corrections and improvements.

For more information, help, or guidance regarding your business, contact:



**Carroll County Department of  
Land & Resource Management**  
Phone: 410-386-2210



OR your municipality:

Hampstead	410-374-2761
Manchester	410-239-3200
Mount Airy	410-795-6012
New Windsor	410-635-6575
Sykesville	410-795-8959
Taneytown	410-751-1100
Union Bridge	410-775-2711
Westminster	410-848-9000

To report a concern about pollutants or possible illegal dumping into the storm drain system, contact:  
**Carroll County Resource Management Bureau,  
Environmental Inspection Services Division**  
Phone: 410-386-2210

For general information about stormwater pollution prevention, visit the "Protecting Carroll County Waters" webpage at:

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/plan/npdes/>