



**CITY OF SPOKANE  
DEPARTMENT OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT  
INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM**



## **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) FOR AUTO BODY SHOP WASTE**

The City of Spokane Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility (RPWRF) treats wastewater from domestic and industrial sources. Some activities, including auto body work, have the potential to discharge hazardous materials that can negatively impact the treatment plant and the Spokane River.

Pollutants can include:

- ☐ Copper, lead, nickel, and especially zinc
- ☐ Hydrocarbons (oil and grease, PAHs)
- ☐ Toxic chemicals (solvents, chlorinated compounds)
- ☐ Paints

The following are sources of pollutants:

- ☐ Wet and dry sanding
- ☐ Washing cars and other vehicles
- ☐ Cleaning floors
- ☐ Auto body repair products
- ☐ Painting

### **WHAT ARE BMPs?**

BMPs are activities and procedures to prevent negative impacts at the City of Spokane RPWRF.

#### **Sanding BMPs**

- Conduct all sanding indoors.
- Sweep or vacuum frequently, especially prior to mopping.
- Mop with a minimum amount of water, and treat the mop water like sanding bucket water.
- Use vacuum sanding equipment whenever possible to reduce the amount of airborne dust.
- Do not wet sand in a wash rack or in an area with a floor drain.
- If possible, reduce or eliminate need for a sanding bucket:
  - Use dent repair tools whenever practical for small dents.
  - Use spray bottle to squirt water onto the panel being sanded. This eliminates sanding bucket wastewater and also minimizes drips and spills.
- Put a pan under the panel being sanded to collect drips.
- If a wet sanding bucket must be used, either pour the contents into a settling unit or leave it in the bucket to stand undisturbed for 24 to 48 hours before carefully bailing the clear water out of the bucket and dispose of it down the drain or into an oil/water separator.
- Dispose of non-hazardous dried sludge in the trash. It is the responsibility of each shop owner to determine whether such waste is hazardous. If the sludge is hazardous, it must be disposed of appropriately.
- Alternatively, check with your waste hauler to see if they will collect your wet sanding waste.

#### **Car Washing BMPs**

- Remove dust from vehicle prior to washing.
- Make sure wash water does not run into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Discharge wash water through a treatment system or recycling unit to the sanitary sewer, or have it hauled off by a licensed hauler.

### Painting BMPS

- Conduct all painting indoors, preferably in a paint booth.
- Use primers and paints with lower zinc content if they work equally well.
- Minimize use of hose-off degreasers. Brush off dirt and use rags to wipe down parts.
- Minimize waste paint and thinner by carefully calculating paint needs based on surface area and using the proper sprayer cup size.
- Never discharge gun-cleaning solution to the sewer or storm drain.
- Do not use water to control overspray or dust in the paint booth unless it is sure to evaporate in the booth (so the dust can be swept up), or this wastewater is collected. The water should be treated prior to discharge into the sewer system.

### Miscellaneous BMPS

- When receiving damaged vehicles, inspect for leaks. Use drip pans if necessary.
- When cleaning wheels, avoid the use of acid-based wheel cleaners if soap and elbow grease will do.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Hazardous waste handling contact: Department of Ecology **(509) 329-3400**

Hazardous spills contact: Spokane Fire Department **9-1-1**

Large volumes of spills that are not hazardous to human health and the environment contact:

Sewer Maintenance **(509) 625-7900**

RPWRF **(509) 625-4600 (days)** or **(509) 625-4610 (after hours)**

Proper disposal of materials and recycling contact:

Spokane Solid Waste Department **(509) 625-7878**

#### **Note:**

Wastewater discharged through most indoor drains flows to the RPWRF and is treated prior to entering the Spokane River. However, some chemicals cannot be treated and pass through the plant into the river.

Stormwater and snowmelt flow to outdoor drains, drywells, and grassy areas that drain directly to the river and aquifer without treatment. Any material exposed to rainwater will be washed into the river or aquifer.

Always maintain clean outdoor areas and ensure that all storage is kept off the ground and covered to prevent rainwater contamination.

**\* IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE INTENTIONAL DISCHARGE OF \*  
ANY HAZARDOUS MATERIAL  
\* IS A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF CITY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAW. \***