



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



**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) FOR AUTO DEALERSHIPS**

The City of Spokane Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility (RPWRF) collects and treats domestic and industrial sewage. Certain industries have the potential to discharge hazardous chemicals and other materials that can have a negative impact on our treatment plant and the Spokane River.

Hazardous Materials Commonly Found in Automotive Shops

- Fuels and solvents—dispose of used fuels and solvents as hazardous water.
- Antifreeze should be recycled. Ethylene glycol and propylene glycol should be stored and recycled separately. Get more information at:  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/dangermat/antifreeze.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/dangermat/antifreeze.html).
- Used Motor oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, lubricating oil, compressor oil, gear and metalworking fluid without chlorinated compounds are all considered used motor oil and can be mixed. If used motor oil is recycled it not considered hazardous waste.
- Shop towels containing solvents, paints, stains, inks, or other chemicals may be ignitable, toxic, or have “listed” solvents that cause them to be dangerous waste. They must be either disposed of as hazardous waste or sent to a properly permitted laundry facility. See <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0904015.pdf> page 3 for details of disposal or recycling.
- Batteries—Store damaged or leaking batteries in closed containers to prevent toxins from entering either the sanitary sewer or storm sewer.

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

For further information on proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials, please see:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0904015.pdf>.

**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.

## WHAT ARE BMPs?

BMPs are activities and procedures that your business performs to prevent negative impacts at the City of Spokane RPWRF. Because many dealerships also do mechanical and body work as well as car washing, the BMPs for dealerships cover the areas of Auto Repair, Car Washing, and Auto Body Work.

### **BMPs FOR AUTO REPAIR**

- Do not pour automotive fluids into your floor sump or drain. Most automotive fluids are designated as hazardous waste and are not suitable for discharge to the storm or sewer collection system. Review MSDS for appropriate disposal methods and environmental hazards.
- Ensure tanks and drums filled with automotive fluids are stored away from your floor sump or drain and in secondary containment. The secondary containment should hold 110% of the largest storage container. Check tanks and drums regularly for leaks and spills. Have a spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan.
- Drain oil filters for 24 hours before disposing in the trash.
- Always use absorbent material to clean up liquid spills. Sweep used absorbents into an appropriate container and dispose of in the trash if it is nonhazardous waste. If the spill was a hazardous waste, dispose of the absorbents through a collection service or the City's hazardous waste collection sites: <http://www.solidwaste.org/sub369c.php?id=5108>.
- Sweep and dispose of solid waste before washing floors. Keep floor sump free of grit or sludge.
- Only allow wash water to enter your floor sump or drain. Non-caustic, non-organic cleaners may be rinsed down the drain.

### **BMPs FOR CAR WASHING**

Wash water from your cleaning activities may contain pollutants such as toxic hydrocarbons (oil and grease), metals, nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen), suspended solids, or harmful cleaning products. Improper discharge can hurt fish and wildlife, pollute recreation sites and contaminate drinking water supplies. It can also interrupt processes at Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility. You can help to keep these harmful substances out of the Spokane River and our Aquifer by complying with the following Best Management Practices (BMPs). Detailed Best Management Practices information from the Washington State Department of Ecology may be printed or downloaded at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/95056.html>.

### Prohibited Wastewater Discharges

- Discharging wastewater to storm drains & dry wells
- Discharging hazardous or dangerous waste, including cleaning products
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon concentrations greater than 100 mg/L
- pH outside the range of 5.0-12.0

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### Vehicle Washing at Dealerships

The following recommendations are for rinsing vehicles with cold water. Cleaning operations using soaps, detergents, or other cleaners should contain the wash water and discharge it to a municipal sewer system with approval from the local sewer authority or use closed-loop water recycling systems.

- Vehicles may be rinsed in the parking stalls as long as only cold water is used.
- The rinse water must be directed away from storm drains to a grassy swale or a landscaped area.
- If rinse water is allowed to run off to a storm drain, the drain should be retrofitted with catch basins to trap sediment and floating oils, and cleaned regularly.
- Washing operations with soaps or detergents should discharge to a sanitary sewer system.
- Do NOT steam or pressure clean engines.
- Do NOT discharge to surface water or a storm sewer without a catch basin.

### **BMPs FOR BODY WORK**

#### 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 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 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

For information on Hazardous waste handling, call the Department of Ecology (509) 329-3400

To report Hazardous Spills, call the Spokane Fire Department 9-1-1

To report large volumes of spills that are not hazardous to human health and the environment, call Sewer Maintenance (509) 625-7900 or RPWRF (509) 625-4600 (days) or (509) 625-4610 (after hours)

For information on the proper disposal of materials and recycling, call Spokane Solid Waste Department (509) 625-7878

It is important to know that the intentional discharge of  
Any Hazardous Material  
is a Serious Violation of City, State, and Federal Law.