

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Vehicle & Equipment Repair

Vehicle and Equipment Repair

Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.

Storm Water Services has many programs to protect water quality. They include enhancement and restoration of waterways, maintenance of the storm drainage system, enforcement of pollution control regulations and education.



Vehicle & Equipment Repair Industry Problems



Many practices in the vehicle & equipment repair industry have the potential to cause polluted discharges that are harmful to the environment, hazardous to public health and against the law. Common pollutants include oil and other automotive fluids, fuel, grease, sediment, degreasers, solvents, and trash. Storm drains lead directly to a stream or lake without any treatment, so any wastewater dumped into them can be very harmful to water quality and aquatic life.

You may already be implementing many of the best management practices (BMPs) described in this flyer. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPs.

Solutions

Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

Following the best management practices for the vehicle & equipment repair industry that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



**VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN
LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.**



For More Information

To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding the vehicle & equipment repair industry call 311 or visit StormWater.CharMeck.org.

Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.

Housekeeping and Clean-up



- It's best to use dry absorbents and a damp mop to clean up shop floors. Avoid hosing down shop floors and never allow the wash water to run outside.
- Sweep the parking lot and pick up trash regularly. Never hose down outdoor paved areas or rinse off parts, equipment or other contaminated items where the water may enter the storm drain system.
- Dispose of mop bucket water into the sanitary sewer system. Never dump it outside.
- Shop floor drains must be connected to a pre-treatment system that removes grit and oil & grease before discharging to the sanitary sewer. Contact Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities at 704-336-4407 to inquire about rules and regulations for pre-treatment systems and discharges to their system in general.
- Wash vehicles and equipment in areas properly designed to handle wash water, and never outside where wash water can enter a storm drain.
- Avoid performing repair work outdoors or in other areas not designed for repair work.

Materials Storage and Waste Management

- Store parts, equipment, drums, batteries and similar items where they are not exposed to stormwater. If such items are stored in areas exposed to stormwater, store them on pallets and ensure that drum caps and lids are in place to avoid rain water from entering the containers and causing them to overflow.
- Do not pour automotive waste such as used oil, solvents, brake fluid, fuel or similar items into floor drains, sinks, outdoor storm drains or sanitary sewer connections.
- Be aware that some waste products, especially certain cleaners and solvents, may be hazardous waste and require special storage, handling and disposal.
- Separate wastes to allow for easier recycling. Doing so may also reduce treatment costs.



Spills & Leaks

- Regularly inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks, especially wrecked vehicles as they often drip oil and other fluids for several days. Use drip pans to capture leaking fluid and transfer the collected fluids to appropriate storage containers.
- Use a drip pan or absorbent pad when performing work that might generate drips, such as unclipping hoses, unscrewing filters or removing other parts.
- For scrap or salvage vehicles, drain fluids to prevent future discharges should a leak develop.
- Stock spill response materials in case a spill or leak occurs.
- Clean up spills and leaks promptly to ensure minimal impact to the environment.
- Do not hose down outside spills. Use absorbent and dry cleanup methods instead.
- Maintain equipment (tanks, hoses and fittings) to prevent leaks.
- Report spills and leaks greater than 25 gallons or any amount that enters the storm drain system to 311.

Employee Training

- Train all employees upon hiring and each year thereafter.
- Post these Best Management Practices where employees can see them.
- Report illegal dumping by calling 311.

