

STORMWATER IS 'NOT' TREATED

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm system is not connected to a treatment plant. There are two separate systems for dealing with wastewater and stormwater runoff.

First, the sanitary system handles wastewater from your home (sinks, toilets, tubs/showers, dishwashers). This wastewater is connected to a treatment plant that removes contaminants before it is released.

Second, the storm drain system is designed to carry storm water runoff from your yard, parking lots, and streets. This runoff water drains directly to creeks, streams, bays, and bayous.

What this means is that anything spilled, poured, or dumped on a yard, parking lot, or street will be carried to the storm drain and will empty into our creeks, streams and lakes. Since stormwater is not treated before it reaches our local waterways, it is important for us to prevent pollution at its source—our backyards, work places and schools.

This information provided by:

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12951 Bandera Road Web: www.helotes-tx.gov
Helotes, TX 78023

More information can be obtained at
www.epa.gov/hpdes/stormwater
www.tceq.state.tx.us
or visit the City of Helotes website at
www.helotes-tx.gov.

PO Box 507
12951 Bandera Road
Helotes, TX 78023



STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



*Automotive Fueling,
Maintenance & Washing
Stations*

STORMWATER ISSUES

Automotive maintenance facilities are considered to be stormwater “hotspots” where significant loads of hydrocarbons, trace metals and other pollutants can be produced that can affect the quality of stormwater runoff. Some of the types of waste generated at automobile maintenance facilities and by residents performing their own car maintenance at home include:

- Solvents (paints & paint thinners)
- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid and brake lining
- Batteries
- Motor oils
- Fuels (gasoline, diesel, kerosene)
- Lubricating grease

Fluid spills and improper disposal of materials result in pollutants, heavy metals and toxic materials that may be picked up by stormwater runoff and carried to the nearest storm drain. Anything that enters the storm drain system, including automotive waste and wash water, flows untreated into our streams and creeks and ends up in our lakes and rivers. By following the guidelines in this brochure, your business can help prevent stormwater pollution.

Only rain down the drain!
Storm drains connect to waterbodies!

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The objective in stormwater protection is that only rain down the storm drain. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific steps to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities in a vehicle maintenance facility. The BMPs address not only direct flow of pollutants to storm drains, but also “threatened discharges” where there is a high probability for stormwater pollution (such as a leaking waste oil drum without secondary containment or any spills or wastes that have been released and are not actively being cleaned up). All maintenance facility staff should review this information sheet as a training tool, and make every effort to keep pollutants from going down the storm drain by putting the following BMPs into practice.

- ◆ Do not dump any liquids or other materials outside. They could be picked up by runoff and carried into the storm drain system.
- ◆ Do not store any liquids or materials outside unless adequate secondary containment and cover are provided or the container is specifically designed for outdoor storage.



- ◆ Post signage prohibiting “topping off” during fueling and describing spill response procedures. Keep a spill response kit at or near each fueling area.
- ◆ Do not allow maintenance or repair work to be performed outside. Only emergency repairs and maintenance activities that do not involve fluids may be performed outdoors.



- ◆ Do not wash vehicles outside unless in a specifically designated wash area that drains to the sanitary sewer.

- ◆ Keep spill cleanup equipment in or near all work areas and use only “dry” cleanup methods to manage spills.



- ◆ Routinely inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks. Inspect all vehicles entering the vehicle service area. Use drip pans to contain leaks that cannot be repaired immediately.



- ◆ Collect and properly manage and recycle used grease, oil, oil filters, antifreeze, cleaning solutions, automotive batteries, hydraulic and transmission fluids, and tires.

- ◆ Regularly check your facility to ensure facility grounds are free from debris and litter.

- ◆ Don't put liquids in your dumpster or rinse it out - request a dumpster exchange from your waste hauler instead. Keep dumpster lids closed to prevent rain from entering.



- ◆ Keep all product and waste chemicals in sealed containers with lids. Always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) before ordering new products.

- ◆ Do not hose down your shop floor or parking lot. It is best to sweep regularly. If power washing is used, wash water must be contained, captured, wet vacuumed and taken to a permitted wastewater disposal facility.

