



Vehicle Maintenance & Repair

IN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Vehicle maintenance and repair operations can have a significant impact on water quality by generating toxins such as solvents, waste oil, antifreeze, and other fluids. Often, vehicles that are wrecked or awaiting repair can be a concern if leaking fluids are exposed to stormwater runoff. Vehicle maintenance and repair can generate oil and grease, trace metals, hydrocarbons, and other toxic organic compounds.

Pollution prevention practices should be applied to any facility that maintains or repairs vehicles in the watershed. In industrial areas, this applies to vehicle maintenance businesses as well as to fleet maintenance operations at larger industries.



Vehicle maintenance and repair practices at companies with fleets of vehicles may contribute pollutants to stormwater runoff.

Pollution prevention opportunities include:

- Avoid hosing down work or fueling areas.
- Clean all spills immediately using dry cleaning techniques.
- Collect used antifreeze, oil, grease, oil filters, cleaning solutions, solvents, batteries, hydraulic and transmission fluids and recycle with appropriate agencies.
- Conduct all vehicle and equipment repairs indoors or under a cover (if done outdoors).
- Connect outdoor vehicle storage areas to a separate stormwater collection system with an oil/grit separator that discharges to a dead holding tank or a stormwater treatment practice.
- Designate a specific location for outdoor maintenance activities that is designed to prevent stormwater pollution (paved, away from storm drains, and with stormwater containment measures).
- Inspect the condition of all vehicles and equipment stored outdoors frequently.
- Use a tarp, ground cloth, or drip pans beneath leaking vehicles or equipment being repaired outdoors to capture all spills and drips.
- Seal service bay concrete floors with an impervious material so cleanup can be done without using solvents. Do not wash service bays to outdoor storm drains.
- Store cracked batteries in a covered secondary containment area until they can be disposed of properly.
- Wash parts in a self-contained solvent sink rather than outdoors.
- If you use a service provider, add language to protect water quality in the maintenance contract.

The intent of this factsheet is to provide guidance only and if there is any discrepancy between the factsheet and current versions of applicable Federal and Provincial Acts and Regulations and/or Municipal By-laws, the Acts, Regulations and/or By-laws take precedence. Since this document is only meant to be a guidance document, site specific analysis of each facility is required to identify the most effective pollution prevention measures. CVC accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury whatsoever to any person or property using the factsheet.