

AUTO MAINTENANCE

Oil and grease from cars, asbestos from worn brake linings, zinc from tires, and toxics from spilled fluids often make their way into the “*permit-holding entity name here*” storm sewer system and DO NOT GET TREATED before reaching the local waterways. These wastes pollute drinking water and make waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.

The following practices will help prevent storm water pollution.

Cleaning Work Sites

Avoid hosing down your garage floor and driveway; instead, sweep regularly. Use nontoxic cleaning products. A water and baking soda mixture works great on removing corrosion from battery terminals and cleaning chrome; mix the soda with a mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to clean wheels and tires. Additionally, a mixture of white vinegar or lemon juice with water can be used to clean windows.

Spills

Avoid accidental spills by using a drip pan and funnel when draining or pouring fluids. Be ready for unexpected spills by preparing and using spill containment and cleanup kits. Kits should include safety equipment and cleanup materials such as kitty litter, sawdust, or cornmeal. Furthermore, prevent leaks from stored vehicles by draining gas; hydraulic oil; and transmission, brake, and radiator fluids. To report serious spills, call XXX-XXXX.

Recycling

The law requires people to recycle motor oil and lead acid batteries. REMEMBER: Never dump them down storm sewers. Other items which can be recycled include oil filters, antifreeze, cleaning solutions, hydraulic and transmission fluids, metal scraps, water-based paints, and used tires. For recycling information, call XXX-XXXX.

Washing Vehicles

Take vehicles to a washing facility to prevent oil and grease, suspended solids, and other toxics from washing into our storm sewers. Otherwise, use bermed wash areas to prevent contact with storm water. Discharge wash water to sewer only after contacting local sewer authority to find out if pretreatment is required. At home, vehicles should be washed on the lawn, which can absorb unwanted runoff.

For more information, call your city’s storm water representative at XXX-XXXX.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document represents a careful consolidation, distillation, and restatement of storm water-related information, policies, and regulations obtained from other sources including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the North Dakota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the United States Census Bureau. Prior to implementing any of the best management practices and recommendations stated within this document, it is suggested the reader review the original sources of this information in detail.