



Systems:

STORM DRAINS VS. SANITARY SEWER

Storm drain and sanitary sewer systems have two distinct functions. It is very important to understand the difference.

Catch basins are the entryway into the **Storm Drain System** and are typically located at the bottom of a hill or at street corners. This system collects and transports water and other liquids away from these areas and out to a local waterbody untreated. The Storm Drain System does not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers.



The **Sanitary Sewer System** collects wastewater from indoor plumbing such as sinks, toilets, washing machines, and floor drains where it is transported through underground pipes to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged back into a river.



City of Patterson
1 Plaza
P.O. Box 667
Patterson, CA 95363
(209) 895-8000

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Automotive Industry



Safe Environmental Habits and Procedure for:

- Auto Body & Repair Shops
- Car Dealerships
- Gas Stations
- Mobile Fleet Managers
- Mobile Fleet Washing Business



Remember:
"Only Rain Down the Drain"



STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Improper disposal of automotive waste materials is harmful to the environment, hazardous to public health and violates state law. Waste materials from automobiles include used motor oil and filters, antifreeze, chemicals, fuel, metal filings, and much more. Even water-soluble cleaning products contain chemicals that are harmful to aquatic life and drinking water supplies.

ADOPT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPTIONS



Preventing leaks and spills.

- 💧 **Avoid** spills by emptying and wiping drip pans when you move them to another vehicle or when they are half-full.
- 💧 **Routinely** inspect equipment to wipe up sills and repair leaks.
- 💧 **Place** large pans or an inflatable portable berm under wrecked cars.
- 💧 **Drain** all fluids from wrecked vehicles or "parts" cars you keep on site.

Cleaning spills.

- 💧 **Clean-up** small spills immediately using shop rags.
- 💧 **Keep** dry absorbent materials and/or a wet/dry vacuum cleaner on hand for mid-sized spills.
- 💧 **Contain** large spills immediately; block or shut off floor and parking lot drains and notify the proper authorities.
- 💧 **Train** all employees to be familiar with hazardous spill response plans and emergency procedures.

Changing automotive fluids.

- 💧 **Designate** an area away from storm or sanitary sewer drains to change automotive fluids.
- 💧 **Collect, separate, and recycle** motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, and gear oil.
- 💧 **Drain** brake fluid and other non-recyclables into a proper container and handle as a hazardous waste.
- 💧 **Use** a radiator flushing fluid that can be recycled and add it to the waste antifreeze.

Working on transmissions, engines, and miscellaneous repairs.

- 💧 **Keep** a drip pan or wide low-rimmed container under vehicles to catch fluids whenever you unclip hoses, unscrew filters, or change parts, to contain unexpected leaks.

Cleaning work areas.

- 💧 **Sweep** or vacuum the shop floor frequently.
- Damp mop work area—do not hose down work areas into the parking lot, street or gutter.
- 💧 **Do not** pour mop water into the parking lot, street, gutter or storm drain system.
- 💧 **Use** non-toxic cleaning products whenever possible.

Cleaning parts.

- 💧 **Clean** parts in a self-contained unit, solvent sink, or parts washer to prevent solvents and grease from entering the sewer or storm drain.

Identify and control wastewater discharges.

- 💧 **Ensure** that shop sinks and floor drains are connected to the sanitary sewer system. Check with the local sewer authority regarding permitting or other requirements.



Outdoor parking and auto maintenance.

- 💧 **Treat** outdoor areas as an extension of your service bays or avoid using altogether.
- 💧 **Sweep-up** trash and dirt from outdoor parking and maintenance areas. Do not hose down areas. All non-storm water discharges are prohibited.
- 💧 **Drain** work areas to sanitary sewer drain rather than a storm drain. Contact the local sewer authority to determine if pretreatment is required.

Washing vehicles, cleaning engines, and other steam cleaning.

- 💧 **For** occasional car exterior cleaning, minimize the water used and divert runoff to landscaped areas, keep it out of the storm drain system.
- 💧 **Wash** vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents.
- 💧 **Make** sure no wastewater from engine or parts cleaning or steam cleaning is discharged where it may flow to a street, gutter, parking lot or storm drain system.

For more information on hazardous waste removal call Stanislaus County Environmental Resources:

(209) 525-6700

Or visit us online at www.ci.patterson.ca.us

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OR A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN:

City of Patterson
Stormwater Pollution
Prevention Program
(209) 895-8060

