

The Problem

The City of Bowling Green relies on the karst landscape we live on to drain storm water runoff. Karst is characterized by sinkholes, caves, springs, underground streams, and the lack of surface streams. As Bowling Green lacks traditional storm water conveyances such as pipes, ditches and surface streams, we rely on sinkholes, caves and drilled drainage wells to carry storm water runoff to the cave streams below. These cave streams reappear as springs and drain to Barren River, the source of our drinking water. Pollutants such as litter, oils and greases, chemicals, pet and animal waste, and sediment are quickly carried to the subsurface with storm water runoff. It is everyone's responsibility to reduce the amount of these pollutants that end up on the ground.

By following the tips and Best Management Practices (BMPs) included in this brochure, your automobile service operation can be a part of the solution to water pollution and also help save your business money.

Did You Know?

It only takes four quarts, or about one oil change, of used motor oil to pollute one million gallons of drinking water.

Be a solution to water pollution.
www.bgky.org/stormwater.htm



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**Put the Brakes on
Water Pollution
at Automobile Service Shops**

By Following These Best Management Practices, You Can Prevent Storm Water Pollution and Help Protect Our Rivers, and Cave Streams

Maintenance and Disposal

- Designate covered (or roofed) areas for maintenance activities.
- Equip drains with shutoff valves in case of spills.
- Use solid waste containers that are in good condition with no holes, covered and secured and away from water.



Preventative Practices

- Recycle shop rags. Keep solvent rags in a closed container when not in use.
- Temporarily block storm drains with clean rubber mats to prevent dirt and chemicals from entering storm drains during spill cleanup.
- Do not complete regular cleaning anywhere near a storm drain. Make sure wastewater is directed to a sanitary sewer or water quality BMP.



Spill Cleanup/Shop Cleaning and Maintenance

- Use dry cleaning methods for cleaning parts. Avoid using hazardous chemicals if possible.
- Sweep your shop floor or parking lot instead of hosing down. Avoid using blowers.
- Clean up spills by applying absorbent materials (for example: absorbent granules, sock and pads). Clean up the absorbent, bag it and place it in the trashcan.



- Consider potential spills and invest in an appropriate spill kit. Use absorbents containing enzymes to convert petroleum chemical spills (fuel, oils, etc.) to non-hazardous waste.
- Do not discharge floor washing waste onto the ground outside the workshop area or to a storm drain.
- Utilize waste oil heater to burn waste oil.

Parking Vehicles on Lots

- Stop vehicle leaks before parking on lot. Drain wrecked, leaking vehicles right away.
- Prevent pollutants from washing down storm drains on your property by regularly inspecting and cleaning debris and litter from drains.

Recycle

- Recycle tires, automotive fluids, other vehicle scrap and washwater.
- Recycle oil. Many recycling services pay for used oil.
- Recycle oil filters. (If not kept in a proper area, used filters can leak contaminated oil into storm drains.)
- Ensure oil filters are crushed or punctured and hot drained for 24 hours if you are disposing of them in the trash.

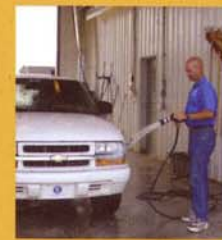
Recycle Materials That You Cannot Reduce or Reuse

- Contract with a recycling service to pick up used antifreeze, lead-acid batteries, motor oil, oil filters, solvents, scrap, and scrap tires.
- Consider an on-site distillation unit to recycle used solvents.
- Consider using re-refined motor oil and engine oil analysis in fleet maintenance shops.



Vehicle/Parts Washing

- Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning with solvents.
- Ensure that the parts wash sink is self-contained and not connected to the sanitary sewer. Contact a local liquid waste hauler to collect water and solvent-based fluids.
- Clean parts with a wire brush or in a bake oven before using liquid cleaners.
- Wash vehicles in a roofed and contained area where soapy or oily wash water is either collected for offsite disposal or discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- Do not use chemicals where they can enter a storm drain or drainage ditch.



Cleaning: Use Less Toxic Substances

- Switch to non-chlorinated compounds, such as citrus-based solvents, for parts cleaning.
- Use an aqueous (or water-based) cleaning system instead of a solvent-based parts washer.
- Consider switching to water-based or steam cleaners instead of using spray cans containing brake cleaners, carburetor cleaner or solvent parts cleaners.
- Switch to a recirculating aqueous spray cabinet for cleaning parts instead of using solvents or hot tanks.