



# Automotive and Equipment Repair Businesses

*Make Clean Water Part of Your Business*

Pollutants include petrochemicals, waste oil and grease, antifreeze, heavy metals, solvents, paints, sanding waste and soaps



**M**any pollutants associated with auto and equipment repair businesses can be carried by rainwater into streams and rivers or may filter into groundwater. When approached in an environmentally-aware way, water quality issues from auto and equipment repair activities can be easily avoided.

This fact sheet was developed to help automotive and equipment repair-related businesses improve competitiveness and profitability while keeping both the workplace and the community clean. Consider this information and make use of the resources available to help keep Eugene's waterways livable and full of life for all of us!

## Defining the Problem

In urban environments, hard surfaces such as roofs, paved streets and sidewalks hold surface pollutants. When it rains, they are carried into catch basins and stormwater drainage system. From there, pollutants flow directly into waterways where they can harm fish, plants and wildlife and can damage recreational sites. In Eugene, these waterways include Amazon Creek, the Mill Race and other smaller waterways that empty into the Willamette River or flow northwest into Fern Ridge Reservoir and the Long Tom River.

Many routine activities can affect Eugene's water quality

- Changing oil and other fluids**  
*Waste oil, antifreeze and other vehicle fluids contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals from wear and tear of engine parts.*
- Cleaning engines and parts and flushing radiators**  
*Solvents are hazardous to employees and can ignite in pipelines.*
- Washing vehicles**  
*Even biodegradable soaps can be toxic when they reach a creek or waterway.*
- Body repair and painting**  
*Solvents, thinners, paints and sanding wastes all cause problems for both sanitary sewer and storm drain systems.*

See the reverse side of this sheet for specific clean water solutions.



## Consider becoming EcoBiz Certified

If your auto shop meets local requirements and takes extra, voluntary steps to help protect the environment, we'll certify it as an Ecological Business.

**Go to [lanep2c.org](http://lanep2c.org) or call 541-682-8625 to learn more.**

# Clean Water Solutions

PROBLEM AREAS
<b>Oil and Grease</b> Comes from leaky vehicles, spills during vehicle maintenance, or wash off during vehicle cleaning or by rain; also oil filters or oil-soaked rags stored in uncovered or inadequate dumpsters.
<b>Toxic Substances</b> Antifreeze, cleaners, paints, paint thinners, gasoline or diesel fuel, and glues.
<b>Soluble Metals (also toxic substances)</b> Come from vehicles and equipment, brake linings, tires, used antifreeze and oil, detergents which may contain arsenic.
<b>Detergents</b> Cleaning dirty parts or floors using detergent products may result in nutrients entering stormwater facilities or washing off hard surfaces by rain or irrigation.

## SOLUTIONS

**Once on the ground, many pollutants can be washed into the storm drain system or absorbed into groundwater. Evaluating your workspace and knowing which pollutants are present is the first step toward keeping them in check. Take these steps to address problem areas:**

- Prepare for spills and clean up promptly. Use absorbent materials and broom/dust pan. Keep spill response kit handy. Train all employees on proper procedure for clean up.
- Wash parts and equipment indoors in an area that drains to the wastewater treatment system or a closed pit that can be pumped out for treatment.
- Minimize detergent use by steam cleaning or using hot water for cleaning parts, tools or equipment.
  - Keep oil/water separators serviced so they function properly.
  - Maintain and label your on-site storm system.
  - Use catch pans when draining fluids.
  - Determine which waste is hazardous, figure out the quantity and best disposal methods. Call Lane County Hazardous Waste at 541-682-5652 with questions about disposal and recycling options.
  - Separate waste materials for disposal and recycling. Store waste properly covered and labeled to avoid contamination.
  - Keep runoff from car washing away from storm drains, or use a commercial wash facility that captures and filters used water.
  - Use the least toxic product available.
  - Avoid chlorinated compounds for carburetor and brake cleaning.
  - Skip the soap when washing vehicles.
  - Keep shop floors swept clean to avoid tracking pollutants outside.



## Need more ideas or information?

Contact the City of Eugene's *Stormwater Information Office* at 541-682-2739

*Emergency Spill Response (toxic spill)*—Eugene-Springfield Fire and EMS: 911

*Pollution Complaints/Stormwater Discharge Violations*—541-682-4800

*Hazardous Waste Disposal*—Lane County Waste Management: 541-682-5652



# Clean Water Resources



## Hazardous Waste Storage and Disposal

▲ Lane County Waste Management, 541-682-3828.

Businesses, industries and institutions may dispose of hazardous materials by appointment. Eligible businesses produce less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month (approximately 25 gallons) and store less than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste at one time. Businesses exceeding these limits will be referred to other hazardous waste service providers.

## Emergency Spills - Hazardous Materials (chemicals, toxic wastes, etc.)

▲ City of Eugene, Fire and Emergency Services, 911.

## Emergency Spills - Non Hazardous Materials (paint, concrete, etc.)

▲ City of Eugene, Public Works Maintenance, 541-682-4800

## Industrial Source Control and Pretreatment

▲ City of Eugene, Water Pollution Control Facility, 541-682-8600.

## Recycling/Solid Waste

▲ City of Eugene, Planning and Development Department, Solid Waste 541-682-6835; Recycling and Commercial Food Waste Program 541-682-5652.

▲ Recycling and Waste Reduction, Lane County Waste Management 541-682-4339

▲ See "Recycling" in the telephone book yellow pages.

## Erosion Prevention

▲ Erosion Prevention and Construction Site Management Hotline: 541-682-8498

Public Works Stormwater Program  
101 E. Broadway, Suite 400  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541-682-2739  
happyrivers.org