



Partnership for the Environment

Utah Department of Environmental Quality

Pollution Prevention for Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Industry

Background

Vehicle repair shops generate regulated waste, either from the services they provide, such as fluid replacement, or from operations they perform, such as parts washing. Some common waste types include:

- Degreasers
- Engine fluids (oil, antifreeze)
- Floor dust
- Floor wash water
- Lead acid batteries
- Metal parts/scrap
- Oily waste sump sludge
- Spent solvents
- Paints and thinners
- Paper products (masking paper, cardboard, office paper.)
- Rags and absorbents
- Refrigerants
- Tires

Here are some options vehicle maintenance and repair companies can use to reduce wastes.

Train Employees to use Good Housekeeping Practices

- Implement spill prevention measures to reduce products from entering the environment.
- Perform preventative maintenance on equipment and vehicles.
- Check incoming vehicles for leaking fluids. Use drip pans to prevent spillage.
- Prevent non-hazardous material from getting contaminated by segregating waste streams.
- Monitor your inventory in storage to reduce accumulation of over-age products.
- Implement a "first-in first-out" policy.

Substitute Materials

- Look for ways to replace solvents with water based cleaners.
- Substitute detergent-based solutions for caustic solutions when cleaning.
- Substitute non-asbestos brake lining for asbestos brake lining.
- Purchase materials in non-aerosol form.
- Use biodegradable floor cleaners.
- Use non-chlorinated brake cleaners.

Modify Processes

- Prerinse parts with spent cleaning solution.
- Remove parts slowly after immersion in solvent solution to prevent spillage.
- Use a still rinse solvent sink rather than a free running rinse.
- Cover or plug solvent sinks when not in use to prevent evaporation.
- Replace solvent parts washers with a hot water washer or jet spray.
- Place cleaning equipment in a convenient location near the service bays to reduce drips and spills.
- Change spray painting process to high volume, low pressure process which will minimize paint lost due to overspray.

Recycle

- Recyclable waste streams should be segregated to prevent cross-contamination.
- Oils and antifreeze should be collected and recycled.
- Lease or purchase solvent sinks and recycle solvent on or off site.
- Send tires, batteries, and metal parts to a recycler.
- Contract a linen service which will supply clean rags and collect dirty ones for washing.
- Purchase a recycling system to recover refrigerant. Reuse containers within the facility or through a drum salvage company.
- An oil/water separator should be used before water is diverted to sewer.

For More Information, Contact:

Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste - (801) 538 - 6170

Division of Drinking Water, Source Protection Program - (801) 536-4200

Division of Water Quality - (801) 538-6146

Small Business Assistance Program - (801) 536-4479

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Environmental Hotline - 1-800-458-0145