

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

Best management practices:

Preventing leaks and managing spills:

- Use drip pans to catch leaks when pouring and draining fluids.
- Prevent leaks from stored vehicles by draining gas, hydraulic oil and transmission, brake and radiator fluids.
- In case of a hazardous spill, follow your hazardous materials response plan as filed with your local fire department or other hazardous materials authority.
- Be sure employees are familiar with your hazardous materials response plan and are capable of implementing it.



Storing and disposing of hazardous materials:

- Keep liquid wastes segregated. Many fluids can be recycled through hazardous waste disposal companies, as long as they are not mixed.
- Store hazardous materials under cover or inside, to prevent leaks and spills.
- Recycle motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, batteries, solvents, lubricants, tires and metal filings from grinding and polishing metal parts. These items are not trash, and are illegal to dump. Contact a hazardous waste hauler for proper disposal.

Cleaning and maintenance:

- Use dry methods, by sweeping and using absorbent cleaning agents, to clean work areas, instead of hosing them down.
- Sweep outside areas regularly and put the debris in the garbage, instead of sweeping or hosing it into the street.

Washing vehicles:

- Wash vehicles at a washing facility that reclaims water. If washed at your business, use berms or sweep to keep contaminated wash water from flowing into the street.
- Direct the wash water into you yard or a nearby planter. The plants will filter out any chemicals and will utilize the otherwise wasted water! (Don't worry about your plants; they won't be harmed by these chemicals.)
- Use nontoxic detergents and cleaners.

For more information:

- [Tips for the Automotive Industry](#)
 - <http://www.ocwatersheds.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=9631>
- [Tips for the Home Mechanic](#)
 - <http://www.cypressca.org/home/showdocument?id=1106>