



## Fact Sheet

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



*BMPs facilitate regulatory compliance; they go beyond meeting established minimum requirements. They are ways of carrying out your business activities that can significantly reduce the risk of pollution and may even save you money. They're good for the environment, your customers, and your business.*

### COMPLIANCE

*State law mandates that local agencies set minimum standards to protect the sanitary sewer and storm drain systems. This Fact Sheet includes minimum standards for regulatory compliance set by CCCSD and by your city's Stormwater Ordinance. Failure to comply with these minimum standards can result in citations and possible fines.*

# Vehicle Repair and Maintenance

**During vehicle repair and maintenance operations, solvents, paints, sanding wastes, oil and antifreeze can all cause water pollution problems if they enter the storm drain or sanitary sewer system.**

### MINIMUM STANDARDS

Allow only rain down storm drains.

Restrictions apply to what can go down the sanitary sewer (refer to Storm Drains and Sanitary Sewers Fact Sheet).

Prevent spills from reaching drains.

Do not store drained vehicle fluids in open containers.

Dispose of wastewater from closed-loop flushing systems as hazardous waste (do NOT discharge it into the sanitary sewer system).

Immediately clean up brake dust. Store it in a sealed container and manage and dispose of it as hazardous waste.

Never wash parts outdoors. If you want to rinse parts to the sanitary sewer, call CCCSD for the necessary approvals.

New air quality laws restrict the use of solvent-based cleaners.

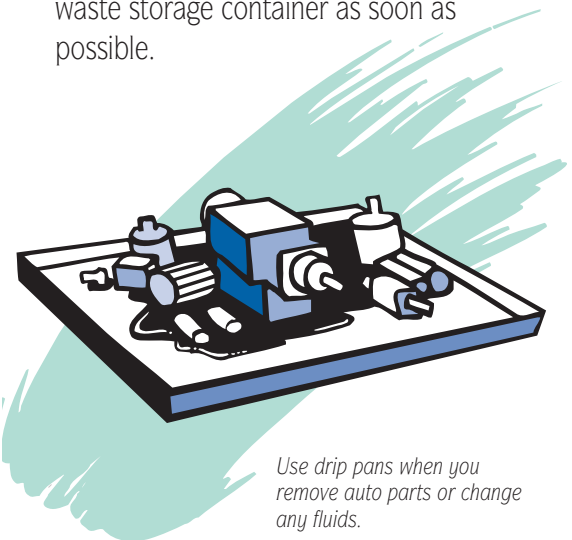
Do not dispose of spent parts-cleaning solution down the sanitary sewer, even if the solvent is water-based.

Keep waste disposal records as required by hazardous waste regulations. CCCSD inspectors may request to see them to verify proper disposal of hazardous waste.

### BMPs

When changing vehicle fluids or flushing radiators, engines and transmissions:

- Change oil and other fluids indoors.
- Use drip pans. Use a large tray under the drip pan when drips may miss the pan. Consider using a roll-around collection drum.
- Transfer fluids from drip pans and other collection containers to the appropriate waste storage container as soon as possible.



*Use drip pans when you remove auto parts or change any fluids.*

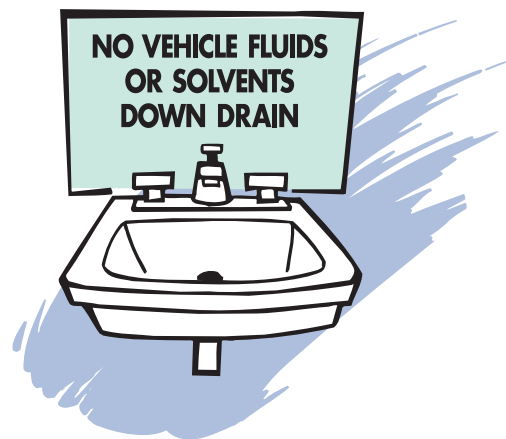
- Use funnels or pumps when transferring liquids.
- Have absorbent pads and booms on hand for spill response.
- Drain oil filters and other vehicle parts containing fluids before recycling them.
- Use closed-loop flushing systems to flush engines, radiators and transmissions to prevent discharge to the sanitary sewer.

#### When servicing brakes:

- To clean up brake dust, lightly wet it down before sweeping it up.
- Avoid spray-on solvent brake cleaner.
- Consider purchasing and using an aqueous brake washer.

#### When cleaning parts:

- Minimize solvent use (use a wire brush or bake oven).
- Use water-based cleaning products.



*Make sure employees know the rules.*

- Prevent solvent spills and drips. Do all parts cleaning in a location equipped with drip pans, drain boards and drying racks to direct drips back into a solvent sink or holding tank.
- To extend solvent life, use a filter and oil skimmer. Wait to change the solvent until it doesn't get parts clean.
- Avoid chlorinated solvents due to air quality and employee health concerns.



*You can buy secondary containers to hold a single drum. For outdoor storage, you'll need a cover.*

### ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is one of a series created by CCCSD to help businesses understand why and how to prevent water pollution. The contents are informational and summary in nature and do not constitute legal advice. For more information, call CCCSD's Source Control Section at (925) 229-7288, or visit our web site at [www.centernalsan.org](http://www.centernalsan.org)

For more information on hazardous waste requirements, call the Contra Costa County Health Services - Hazardous Materials Programs at (925) 335-3200.

Other regulatory agencies you may wish to contact include:

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District  
 San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District  
 Bay Area Air Quality Management District