

# Stormwater management for car repair industry

Fact sheet



Litter, grease and oil, paint, heavy metals and other waste from the car industry will be a source of pollution if they get into the stormwater system.

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## Stormwater management and the law

Under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* it is an offence to discharge industrial waste to the stormwater system.

EPA has the power to serve heavy fines and even prosecute businesses if they allow liquid or solid waste to enter the stormwater system.

If a spill or discharge occurs to the stormwater, contact EPA 24 hours a day on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).

## To help your business prevent stormwater pollution you should do the following:

- Store chemicals, paints, oils, detergents and other liquid materials, as well as car batteries, in an undercover bunded area.
- Get a licensed plumber to check you do not have cross-connections between the sewage and stormwater systems on your site.
- Mark your stormwater entry points so they can be easily identified.
- Make a plan to deal with spills. Ensure everyone on site knows what to do in the event of a spill.
- Separate your waste from recycling and provide waste bins with lids to avoid having litter blowing around.

## Vehicle repair

It is important to do all vehicle repairs in a covered, bunded area. Vehicle and panel washing **must** be undertaken in a bunded area connected to the sewer. Other steps your business can follow to protect our waterways include these:

- Use spill trays to collect oil and other fluids from work areas.
- Control airborne sprays so they cannot land on surfaces where rain will wash them down the drain.
- Oil filters, waste oil and waste solvents should be collected by an EPA-licensed operator.
- Collect and recycle solid wastes, including car batteries.



Stormwater pollution is a major threat to the Yarra River, its tributaries and Port Phillip Bay. It can affect the places we swim and fish and the visual amenity of our beaches and waterways.



Mark the stormwater entry points on your site



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