

**Recycle:**

Recycle what you must:

- Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code requires motor oil recycling.
- Section 66822 of the California Code requires lead acid battery recycling.

Recycling what you can:

- Metal scraps
- Used tires, paper and cardboard
- Containers glass, aluminum, and tin
- Water-based paints

**Train all employees during their new employee orientation on Stormwater BMP's. Reinforce training on a regular basis for all employees. Educate your customers on Stormwater BMP's.**

**Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal:**

City of Modesto  
Solid Waste Management  
(209) 577-5494

Stanislaus County  
Household Hazardous Waste Facility  
(209) 525-4123

**To Report a Spill or Illegal Dumping:**

City of Modesto  
Water Quality Control Division  
(209) 577-6200

**To Report a Clogged Storm Drain:**

City of Modesto  
Water Quality Control Division  
(209) 577-6200

*This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:*

- Automotive Maintenance & Car Care
- Equipment Rentals
- Food Service Industry
- Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application
- General Construction & Site Supervision
- Heavy Equipment & Earthmoving Activities
- Home Repair & Remodeling
- Horse Owners & Equine Industry
- Kennels
- Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control
- Mobile Washers and Cleaners
- Nurseries
- Painting
- Roadwork & Paving
- Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi & Fountain Maintenance



**For more information about storm drain protection or additional pamphlets, call:**

(209) 577-6377  
City of Modesto  
Public Works Department  
Environmental Compliance Section

**Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs):**

**Automotive Maintenance & Car Care**



Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

**Auto Body Shops**

**Auto Repair Shop**

**Car Dealerships**

**Gas Stations**

**Mobile Fleet Managers**

**Mobile Fleet Washing Business**

**General Contractors**

**Home Builders**

**Site Supervisors**



Environmental Compliance Section  
Public Works Department

## Water Pollution Prevention

### It's Up to Us:

Modesto has two drainage systems-the sewers and the *storm drains*. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets and out to our rivers by way of catch basins or drainage into our rockwell system.

Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to our rivers, and eventually the ocean.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent river pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to our rivers through the storm drain system – 77 miles of storm lines and over 10,000 rockwells -- that take water and debris straight from Modesto streets to our rivers and waterways. Each day, polluted urban runoff enters our rivers untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash to be carried downstream.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates our rivers, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner rivers and city.

### Car Maintenance Problems

**Many common car maintenance routines contribute to river pollution. Washing the car or pouring used motor oil into gutter or storm drain pollutes the rivers.**

Water runoff from streets, parking lots and driveways picks up oil and grease dripped from cars, asbestos worn from brake linings, zinc from tires and organic compounds and metals from spilled fuels.

Oil and grease, for example, clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. If oxygen levels in the water become too low, aquatic animals.



### Cleaning Work Sites:

- Do not hose down your shop floor. It best to sweep regularly.
- Use non-toxic cleaning products. Baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps and chrome; mix the soda with a mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to clean wheels and tires; for windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water.



### Spills:

- Prepare and use easy to find spill containment and cleanup kits. Include safety equipment and cleanup materials appropriate to the type and quantity of materials that could spill.
- Pour kitty litter, sawdust or cornmeal on spills.



### Fluids:

- Your customer's regular car maintenance prevents fluids from leaking onto streets and washing into storm drains. It is also good for business.
- Change fluids carefully. Use a drip pan to avoid spills.
- Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as unused gas, transmission and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage.
- Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills. Use a funnel when pouring liquids and place a tray underneath to catch spills. Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers. Clean up spills immediately.



### Washing Vehicles:

- Prevent oil and grease, suspended solids and toxics from washing into storm drains:
- Designate a washing site where water drains to the sewer system. The area must be paved and well marked as a wash area. Post signs prohibiting oil changes and washing with solvents. Train all employees to use the designated area.
- Wash vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent. Use a bucket (not a running hose) to wash and rinse vehicles. This conserves water and minimizes urban runoff.

### Fueling Vehicles:

- Gas and diesel spills are common when fueling vehicles. To minimize pollution:
- Design fueling areas so that all spills are contained and runoff cannot carry spills into storm drains. Spills should be directed to a containment area that allows for proper treatment and disposal.
- Cover the fueling area to keep rain from washing away spilled materials. Extend the cover several feet beyond the containment area.
- Keep absorbent materials on-site to allow prompt cleanup of all spills. Post signs instructing people not to overfill gas tanks. Overfilling causes spills and vents gas fumes into the air.