

AUTOMOTIVE WASTEWATER

If not properly handled, wastes from auto maintenance and repair operations can threaten worker safety or damage the environment. As an automotive repair or body shop operator, your role in protecting public health and the environment is vital.

ENGINE & VEHICLE CLEANING WASHWATER

Many shops wash engine compartments or entire vehicles as part of their business. The runoff from engine compartment washing often contains oil and grease that are a threat to aquatic life and drinking water supplies. If washing is done outside without the proper containment and sewer hookup, the wash water eventually reaches a storm drain and then into our creeks and the ocean.

Water from engine and vehicle washing is process wastewater, and should never be allowed to go into storm drains.

Engine and vehicle cleaning wastewater can be minimized by using simple methods:

- ✓ Consider using a pressure washer or steam cleaner to wash engine compartments and vehicles. They use less water than a conventional hose.
- ✓ Check with the local sewer utility or city engineering department to verify that your drains are connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- ✓ Attach spring-loaded nozzles to hoses used for washing, as it will prevent the hoses from running when not in use.
- ✓ Use high-pressure spray units as they use half as much water as a garden hose and provide better cleaning.