

While we know that water pollution can originate from sources such as an industry or sewage; much has been done to clean up these “point sources” of pollution.

What many people don't realize, is that “nonpoint source” pollution—which originates from many diffuse sources all over our watershed—is the main cause of water pollution in our coastal waters.

Water picks up sediments and contaminants as it runs off streets and landscape. In Arcata, “stormwater pollution”—flows to storm drains which empty directly into our creeks, sloughs, Humboldt Bay and the ocean. Storm drains are separate from our sewer system, and flow to our creeks and waterways UNTREATED!

PLEASE NOTE: Automotive businesses can cause harm by hosing down service bays, parking and other areas. Often, this activity flushes pollutants into the storm drain system. The discharges of pollutants into the storm drain system or local surface water is **strictly prohibited by local ordinances and state and federal regulations.** This includes discharges containing oil, antifreeze, gasoline and other waste materials.

To protect our creeks and waterways only rain should go down storm drains. We all need to do our part. Please don't let runoff get polluted in the first place.



Washing the Car

Prevent oil and grease, suspended solids and toxins washing into stormdrains:

- Designate a wash site where water drains to the sewerage system. The area must be paved and well marked as a wash area. Train all employees to use the designated area.
- Wash vehicles with biodegradable detergent, phosphate free. Use a bucket (not a hose) to rinse vehicles. This conserves water and minimize urban runoff.



For questions call:

City of Arcata Environmental Services Dept.

(707) 822-8184

Humboldt Waste Management Authority

(707) 268-8020

CalRecycle

1-800-RECYCLE

North Coast Stormwater Coalition Region-
Wide Hotline

1-877-NCSC-001 1-877-627-2001

www.HumboldtStormwater.org

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Hotline

(800) 728-6942



City of Arcata Automotive Business Guidelines



For Water Quality Protection



Environmental Services Dept.

736 F Street

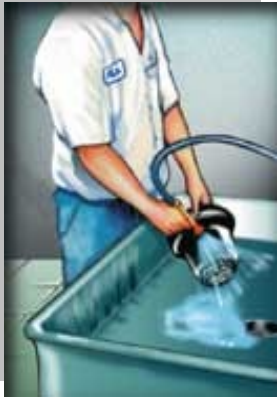
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eservices@cityofarcata.org

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Cleaning Auto Parts



Scrape parts with a brush or use a bake oven rather than liquid cleaners. Arrange drip pans, drying racks, and drain boards so that fluids are directed back into the sink or the fluid holding tank. Use

nontoxic 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.

Metal Polishing & Grinding



Keep a bin under your lathe or grinder to capture metal filings. Send uncontaminated filings to a scrap metal recycler for reclamation.

Preventing Leaks and Spills



Place drip pans underneath to capture fluids. Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work areas. Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as unused gas, transmission hydraulic oil, brake

fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage. Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills. Use a funnel when pouring liquids (like lubricants or motor oil) and place a tray underneath to catch spills. Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers.

Cleaning Up Spills



Follow your Hazardous Material Response Plan responsive materials. Ensure that all employees are aware of the Plan and are able to implement each phase of the Plan. Use dry methods for cleanup of spills (absorbent materials, sweeping, etc.)

Proper Storage and Disposal of Hazardous Materials



Keep your liquid wastes segregated. Many fluids can be recycled via hazardous waste disposal companies if they are not mixed. Store all materials under cover or inside to prevent contamination by rainwater.



Recycle solvents, oil, used oil filters, antifreeze, batteries and lubricants. Contact Humboldt Waste Management Authority or a hazardous waste hauler for how to recycle these materials and properly dispose of saturated absorbents.