



## Best Management Practices for Vehicle Repair & Maintenance

### How does vehicle repair and maintenance impact water quality?

During vehicle repair and maintenance operations, solvents, paints, sanding wastes, oil and antifreeze can all cause water pollution problems if they enter a stormdrain or the sanitary sewer. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove this type of waste.

### Enforcement of Vehicle Service BMPs

The Napa Sanitation District Code states in Section 4.04.090 that in lieu of a wastewater discharge permit, the District may develop BMPs that serve as an enforceable control mechanism for prohibited wastes. The BMPs listed below as “REQUIRED” are required actions that will be assessed when an NSD inspector visits your facility.

By following these BMPs, you will protect water quality, potentially lower your costs, and pass inspections by the NSD Inspector.

### Inspections by Napa Sanitation District

Vehicle repair and maintenance facilities are inspected regularly by an NSD Inspector to ensure compliance with District Code and to prevent sewer problems. When the inspector visits, he/she will check sand and oil separators for proper function. The inspector will also verify that floor drains are permanently sealed. The District has the right at any time to pull a sample to check for compliance with the local limits<sup>1</sup> found in District Code.

### The following BMPs are REQUIRED:

These BMPs will be enforced through regular inspection by NSD Inspectors.

- No wastewater other than domestic sewage and auto body wash water shall be discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- All floor drains in the service area must be permanently sealed.
- Vehicle wash areas must be separated from the service/repair area and the wash water must be treated using a District-approved sand and oil separator.
- The vehicle wash area must be permanently covered and the area around the building shall be graded away from the car wash slab.
- Permanent awnings must be placed over the open sides of the car wash area and should extend a distance equal to 1/2 the height of the opening, as per NSD Standard Specifications.
- Restroom drains are allowed for domestic wastewater discharge only.

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<sup>1</sup> Local limits are technically based, defensible numerical limits imposed on industrial users by the District. The local limits are set for toxic pollutants that can interfere with the treatment process or pass through the treatment process without being removed. Local limits can be found in the District Code online at [www.NapaSan.com](http://www.NapaSan.com).

**The following BMPs are RECOMMENDED:**

**Vehicle Washing:**

- Recycle wash water or take vehicles to an approved car wash that recycles wash water.

**Parts Cleaning:**

- Minimize the use of solvents.
- Use water-based cleaning products.
- Pre-clean parts by scraping when possible.
- Create a centralized parts washing station. Equip the station with drop pans, drain boards and drying racks to direct drips back into a solvent sink or holding tank.
- Extend solvent life by using a filter and oil skimmer. Wait to change solvent until it doesn't get parts clean.
- Never wash parts outdoors.

**Servicing Breaks:**

- 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.

**Fluid Changes and Fueling Operations:**

- Change oil and other fluids indoors.
- Use drip pans. Place 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 appropriate waste storage as soon as possible to avoid spills.
- 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 fluid before recycling them.
- Use closed-loop flushing systems to flush engines, radiators and transmissions to prevent discharge to the sanitary sewer.

**Proper Waste Disposal:**

- Identify and properly manifest all hazardous wastes, including waste paints, solvents, thinners, cleaning fluids, coolants, oil and gasoline, and rags saturated with solvents and gasoline.
- Send rags intended for reuse to an industrial laundry. Do not launder rags at home.