

Water Pollution Prevention
It's Up to Us!

Riverbank has two drainage systems, the sewer 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 or waterways.

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 – gutters, inlets, retention basins, pipelines, pumping facilities -- that take water and debris straight from Riverbank 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 a cleaner city.



www.riverbank.org

For more information about Storm Drain Protection call:

(209) 863-7127

**Development Services Department
City of Riverbank**

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

**Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste
(209) 525-6700**

<http://www.stancounty.com/er/hazmat/household-hazardous-waste.shtm>

To Report a Clogged Storm Drain or a Spill

**City of Riverbank
Public Works Dept. (209) 869-7128
Development Service Dept. (209) 863-7127**

Reporting of Illegal Dumping

**City of Riverbank Neighborhood Improvement
Complaint Line
(209) 863-7190**

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



**Development Services
Department**

Automotive Maintenance & Car Care

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 die.

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.
- 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.

Recycle:

What you must recycle:

- Motor Oil Recycling – per the Health and Safety Code Section 25250.
- Lead Acid Battery Recycling – per the Health and Safety Code Section 25215.

What you can recycle:

- 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.

