

Don't let a good drop go bad!

Because we all live downstream...

For more information, contact
Sumter Stormwater Solutions.
Phone: (803) 865-1216 ext. 122
Email: mnevins@clemson.edu

Or visit us on the web at
www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/scsc



Sumter Stormwater Solutions is a partnership between Clemson University Extension, the City of Sumter, and Sumter County and local education partners, dedicated to public education, outreach, and involvement for water quality in the Sumter area.



SUMTER STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

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Auto Repair Stormwater Pollution Prevention Guide



DID YOU KNOW?

*It only takes four quarts of oil (about one oil change) to contaminate **one million gallons** of drinking water. That's enough to fill two Olympic size swimming pools!*

Auto repair businesses handle materials every day, like oil and antifreeze, that can cause water pollution. Water pollution is harmful to the environment and against the law in Sumter County. Businesses have a responsibility to protect Sumter's streams, rivers, and wetlands. Learn what your auto repair business can do to prevent pollution!





Auto Repair: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Guide



Auto Repair & Pollution

Motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, and other car fluids are all harmful to the environment and human health. Cars and other vehicles and equipment can develop leaks if not maintained. When maintaining and repairing vehicles and equipment, it is easy to spill oil and other fluids if you are not careful. When used oil, fluids, tires, or batteries are disposed of improperly they can also damage the environment.

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Rain water can pick up pollutants (oil, litter, sediment, etc.) from streets, parking lots and lawns and carry them into storm drains. Storm drains do not go to treatment plants, they go directly into streams and rivers. Pollution can make waterways unusable for drinking, fishing, swimming, or supporting wildlife.



How does this affect your business?

Sumter County and City ordinances require that no pollutants or water containing pollutants be allowed to enter storm drains, ditches or natural waterways, either directly or carried by stormwater runoff. Businesses are responsible for containing spills and keeping pollution out of waterways. Violation of this rule (called *illicit discharge*) can result in fines for your business. But with care and awareness, you can help Sumter protect its valuable water resources.

Read Sumter's illicit discharge laws at www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/scsc



Tips for Auto Repair Businesses

- Know where drains (indoor and outdoor) empty to. Do they go to sanitary sewers, storm sewers, or elsewhere?
- Never pour oil or fluids into a storm drain or onto the ground. Only rain down the storm drain!
- Do not clean work areas with water if that water would run into storm drains. Use absorbent materials like kitty litter, or absorbent pads to soak up spills. Then sweep the area with a broom.
- Do not discharge water from radiator flushing to the ground or storm sewers.
- Check vehicles for leaks. Use drip pans or plastic tarps to catch leaking fluids.
- If vehicles are to be stored long-term, drain gasoline, oil, and other fluids first.
- Many brake pads contain copper, which wears off as the pads wear and contributes to stormwater pollution.
- Do not hose down brake pads, rotors or drums. Use shop cloths to wipe as much brake dust as possible from the rotors and drums before using brake cleaner fluid.
- Dispose of used motor oil, other fluids, and their containers properly.
- Keep fluids (oil, antifreeze, etc.) separate from each other for recycling.
- If possible, accept used fluids and materials from the public to be recycled.
- Provide customers with information on water pollution. Request free brochures from contact on the back of this flyer.

Auto Fluids and Materials that can be Recycled:

- Motor Oil
- Oil Filters
- Antifreeze
- Brake Fluid
- Transmission Fluid
- Car batteries
- Tires