

## Stormwater Pollution

The storm drains that keep our parking lots, streets and businesses from flooding lead to the Los Angeles River. Stormwater runoff enters the storm drain system through grates and curb inlets called catch basins. Unlike water that enters the sanitary sewer system, water that enters the storm drain system travels, untreated, directly to the Los Angeles River, carrying with it pollutants that the stormwater contacted.

Gas stations and auto body repair shops can contribute pollution to the storm drain system through car washing, improper disposal of used oil, and overfilling gasoline tanks. Pollutants, such as, grease dripped from cars, zinc from tires and metals from fuels can be washed down the storm drains by stormwater.

Stormwater Pollution can have financial consequences and adversely affect human health, marine life, and property values.

**It is your responsibility to manage your facility in a way that protects the quality of our waterways and marine resources.**

## Resources

To report illegal dumping in storm drains, clogged catch basins, hazardous waste spills, sewer back-ups, and water line breaks, call:

**(888) CLEAN-LA** (Los Angeles County)  
or  
**(323) 722-4805** (City of Commerce).



If there is a storm drain inlet on your property (not in the public right-of-way), it is your responsibility to remove accumulated debris from the inlet and mark it with “no dumping, drains to ocean” or an equivalent statement.

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Automotive Service Facilities and Gas Stations



City of Commerce  
Environmental Services  
(323) 722-4805



## Stormwater Regulations

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was created under the Clean Water Act to regulate pollutant discharges. There are three general stormwater permits: Municipal, Industrial and Construction.

The City of Commerce is a Permittee under the Los Angeles Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. To comply with the Municipal Stormwater Permit, the City of Commerce must track, educate, inspect and ensure compliance with municipal ordinances at industrial and commercial businesses.



## Employee Training

Establish a training program to educate employees regularly on the following topics:

- Eliminating non-stormwater discharges
- Cleaning outdoor areas
- Spill cleanup and prevention
- Good housekeeping practices
- Proper chemical storage and disposal

## Non-Stormwater Discharges (NSWD)

NSWDs are discharges that do not originate from precipitation events. This includes discharges of process water, air conditioner condensate, vehicle wash water, irrigation water, concrete washout water, etc.

Employees should know that it is illegal to allow any discharge except stormwater to enter the storm drain system. Non-stormwater discharges should be contained and eliminated.



Illegal non-stormwater discharge from a facility using a hose to wash the sidewalk.

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are practices to prevent or reduce surface water pollution.

### *Good Housekeeping*

- Outdoor areas are free of litter and debris.
- Trash bins and dumpsters are kept closed.
- Operations such as painting, grinding, sanding, degreasing, or parts cleaning should be conducted indoors, when possible. Dust and debris from operations should be contained.
- Conduct steam cleaning of parts in an enclosed bay and collect water in a sump.
- Clean spray guns in a self-contained unit.
- If necessary, install an oil/water separator to remove oil, grease, and metal fines.

### *Spill and Leak Prevention and Response*

- Place drip pans under vehicles.
- Prevent spills by training employees on proper material handling techniques.
- Keep a well-stocked spill kit.
- Clean-up spills immediately with absorbent materials. Dispose of materials properly.
- Store materials in secondary containment.

### *Material Handling and Waste Management*

- Store materials and equipment under roofs, if possible. Cover exposed materials with a tarp prior to storms.
- Do not put used parts directly on the ground.
- Dispose of used oil and chemicals according to applicable regulations using a registered waste hauler.
- Vehicle washing should only occur at facilities that have a pretreatment device and permitted connection to the sanitary sewer.

### *Vehicle Fueling*

- Post signage against topping off fuel tanks.
- Fueling area design minimizes stormwater run on and is covered.