

R-3 Residential Automobile Repair and Maintenance

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Many people repair and maintain their vehicles at home. These activities cannot pollute streams, rivers, and lakes. Keeping your vehicle from leaking oil or other fluids is an important pollution prevention measure.

Required BMPs:

- Collect all used oil, antifreeze, or other vehicle fluids in containers with tight fitting lids. Do not mix these fluids in the same container.
- Recycle oil at an auto parts store or service station. Oil and other fluids can be disposed of at a household hazardous waste collection site. Call the household hazardous waste line at 206-296-4692 or see govlink.org/hazwaste/house/products/list.cfm for recycling and disposal information and locations. Never dispose of any fluids or waste materials into a storm drain, ditch, or onto the ground.
- Never clean the engine or undercarriage of your vehicle at home. For this type of cleaning, take the vehicle to a commercial car wash facility.
- Use drip pans, tarps, or even cardboard and newspaper under the vehicle to capture leaks or spills that may occur during maintenance and repair activities. This ensures spilled fluids won't be washed to the storm drainage system.
- Clean up spills with rags or absorbent material, such as sand, dirt, or cat litter. Do not wash down or hose down these spills to the curbs, roadway, or storm drains. Sweep up absorbents and dispose of them in your garbage can.
- Store used batteries under cover and off the ground or inside until they can be recycled.

Tips:

- Take your vehicle to a commercial car repair facility where fluids are handled, recycled and disposed of correctly to avoid pollutants being introduced to our local water bodies.

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.