

PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION



Best Management Practices for Automotive Paint & Body Shops



Paint and body shops generate many types of waste – some hazardous, some not. However, if not handled properly, this waste could damage the environment. Liquid or solid waste spilled or dumped on the ground or disposed in dumpsters may seep into the ground and potentially pollute our desert washes and the environment. This action is punishable by fines of up to \$27,500 **per violation per day**.

Surface Preparation, Sanding and Paint Removal

- Enclose, or contain blasting and sanding activities to the maximum extent practical to prevent abrasives, dust and paint chips from reaching stormdrains, streets or washes. Where feasible, cover drains, trenches and drainage channels to prevent entry of blasting debris to the stormdrain system.
- Prohibit blasting or sanding activities during windy conditions.
- Collect spent abrasives routinely and store covered to await proper disposal.
- Do not hose down work areas into streets or stormdrains. Regularly dry sweep prep areas.
- Bag sweepings to prevent leaching in dumpsters.
- Dry wipe surfaces instead of using solvents or compressed air.

Painting

- Mix paints and solvents in designated areas away from drains, ditches and surface waters, preferably indoors. Have absorbent and other spill cleanup items readily available for immediate cleanup.
- Prohibit spray-painting activities during windy conditions which render containment ineffective.
- Keep paint and paint thinner away from traffic areas to avoid spills.
- Recycle paint, paint thinners and solvents.
- Use lead-free paint and paints that contain low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's).
- Use effective spray equipment that delivers more paint to the target and reduces overspray.

Vehicle Washing Areas

- Designate an area for cleaning activities. Inspect area regularly.
- Use detergent-based or water-based cleaning systems in place of organic solvent degreasers. Use phosphate-free biodegradable cleaners.
- Contain wash waters. Install curbing, berms around cleaning areas.
- Dispose of wastewater properly using the sanitary sewer system. Contact Pima County Wastewater Dept., 579-5771, to determine whether an industrial wastewater permit is required.
- Contact Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), (602) 771-4385 for vehicle wash wastewater disposal using an impoundment or subsurface disposal system.

Stormdrains are for Rainwater, Pure and Simple.

For further information regarding best management practices, contact the City of Tucson's Department of Transportation Stormwater Management Section at (520) 791-4251



Department of Transportation
Stormwater Management Section

