

## Storm Water Pollution Prevention Clean Water: Our Only Choice

Shelby County has two drainage systems – the sewers and the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets, homes, and businesses. Because the system contains no filters, it also serves the unintended function of carrying urban pollution straight into our streams and the Mississippi River.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent pollution from entering our streams from “storm water” or “urban runoff”.

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates storm water pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automobile fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to the Mississippi River through the storm drain system that takes water and debris straight from the streets to our streams. Each day tremendous amounts of polluted urban runoff enters our streams untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our creeks and river and tons of trash along their banks.

Urban runoff contaminates our streams and river, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging our storm drains and catch basins. Overall, storm water pollution costs us millions of dollars per year.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner streams and river, and a cleaner Shelby County. For storm water information, call Chris Masin, Storm Water Manager 222-7705.

For more information please visit our website at:  
<http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov>  
<http://www.cityofmemphis.org>

### Hazardous Spill Response

Shelby County Fire Dept. 911 or (901) 222-8020  
City of Memphis Fire Dept. (901) 458-3311

### Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Shelby County (901) 222-7770  
City of Memphis (901) 576-4349

### To Report Illegal Dumping

Shelby County (901) 222-2300  
City of Memphis (901) 576-4349

Memphis & Shelby County Health and Sanitation  
Dept. (901) 222-9000

### To Report a Drainage Problem

Shelby County (901) 222-2300  
City of Memphis (901) 636-6933

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

- Food Service Industry
- Detention Pond Maintenance
- Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities
- Home Repair & Remodeling
- Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control

Home repair or remodeling that includes electrical, plumbing or an addition to your home requires a permit. You must get a permit from the Memphis & Shelby County Code Enforcement at (901) 222-8300.

For more information or assistance, call, email or write:

### Tennessee Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

8th Floor, L&C Annex, 401 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-1551

**1-800-734-3619**

**BGSBEAP@tn.gov**

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/section/sbeap-small-business-environmental-assistance>

Shelby County Storm Water Management Program  
6463 Haley Road  
Memphis, TN 38134  
(901) 222-7705

## Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs)



## Automotive Maintenance & Car Care

Brochure 3

Gas Stations  
Auto Repair Shops  
Auto Body Shops  
Car Dealerships  
Mobile Fleet Managers  
Mobile Fleet Washing  
Businesses

## Car Maintenance Problems

Many common car maintenance routines contribute to storm Water pollution. Washing the car or pouring used motor oil into a gutter or storm drain pollutes our streams and the Mississippi River.

Water runoff from streets, parking lots and driveways picks up oil and grease dripped from cars, asbestos worn from break linings, zinc from tires and organic compounds and metals from spilled fuels. These chemicals drain into the Mississippi River and its tributaries, harming the fish and aquatic life.

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.

## Solutions

Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as handling, storing and disposing of materials properly can prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains.

### 1. Cleaning Work Sites

**Don't hose down your shop floor.** It is best to sweep it regularly.

**Use non-toxic cleaning products.** Baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps and chrome; mix soda with a mild biodegradable dishwashing soap for wheels and tires; for windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water.

### 2. 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.

**For small spills, pour kitty litter, sawdust or cornmeal on spills to bind liquids.** For information on proper disposal, contact the Tennessee Division of Solid Waste Assistance at (615) 532-0780.

### 3. Fluids

Your customer's regular car maintenance prevents fluids from leaking onto streets and washing into storm drains. It also is 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, break 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 (like lubricants or motor oil) and place a tray underneath to catch spills. Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers. Clean up spills immediately.

### 4. Washing Vehicles

Prevent oil and grease, suspended solids and toxins from washing into the storm drains.

**Designate a washing site where water drains to the sanitary 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 the car and conserve water.

### 5. Fueling Vehicles

Gas and diesel spills are common when fueling vehicles.



**Design fuel areas so that all spills are contained and runoff cannot carry spills into storm drains.** Slope the containment area toward drains connected to the sanitary sewer system. Equip the drain with a shutoff valve in the event of a large spill. Always contact 1-800-262-3300.

**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 spills.**

**Post signs instructing people not to overfill gas tanks.** Overfilling causes spills and vents gas fumes to the air.

### 6. Recycle...

**Recycle what you can:**

- Metal scraps
- Used tires
- Aluminum
- Used oils
- Water-based paints
- Paper and cardboard
- Antifreeze

Check the yellow pages under "Recycling" to locate a recycling facility for your particular product.

### 7. Employee and Customer Education

**Educate your employees.** Include water quality training in new-employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions.

**Educate your customers.** Raise both employee and customer awareness by stenciling storm drains near the work place with the Storm Water Program Stencil — "Dump No Waste — Drains to River."

