

How to Clean Automotive Spills (cont.)

Auto Body Painting and Refinishing

- Manage your inventory.
- Improve paint measurement and mix only what you need.
- Minimize paint transfers.
- Use disposable calibrated paint gun liners.
- Remove body parts from vehicles prior to painting.
- Consider using waterborne paints.

Work Area Floor Cleaning

- NEVER hose down your work area.
- Use a mild detergent that is specially formulated to clean fluids.
- Dump washwater down an approved sink
- NEVER pour or rinse automotive fluids into the storm drain
- If a spill reaches or enters the storm drain, call FDEP.

Storage

- Keep used auto parts away from the elements, such as junk cars, car batteries, engines, and tires. If stored outside, always cover with a tarp.
- Never put used hazardous materials in the trash
- Never bury, dump, or burn any automotive fluids.
- Never let automotive fluids accumulate on your lot
- Do not discharge any pollutants to public space.

Keeping Clean Solutions

- Use paints with higher solids content, or water-based paints with no solvent, whenever possible.
- Collect all scrap metal and take it to a metal recycler.
- Make sure all ac coolants are properly handled and recycled.
- Arrange to have waste antifreeze picked up by a recycler.
- Consider recycling scrap tires. Depending on the number of tires collected, it may be cost effective to contract with a tire retreader/recycler, rather than send them to a landfill.
- When buying new equipment, look for equipment that will minimize both the amount of toxic materials used and the amount of waste produced.
- Reassess the shop's operations and waste handling practices periodically. A successful program requires diligence and to identify additional waste reduction possibilities.
- Publicize the shop's commitment to waste reduction. Customers will feel good about doing business with a company that is environmentally responsible.



For more information from Charlotte County:

Phone: 941.764.4380

To report illicit discharge/illegal dumping:
1.866.Y.DUMP.CC (1.866.938.6722)

Web Site:

www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/engineering/pages/stormwater-NPDES-public-education-outreach

To report illicit discharge/illegal dumping online:
www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/solidwaste/pages/illegal-dumping

For other information: Public Works 941.575.3600
or Solid Waste Division 941.764.4380

AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS POLLUTION CONTROLS

Auto businesses can be generators of hazardous waste among small businesses.

These shops have the potential to generate pollution in the vicinity due to the following main activities:

- replacement of auto parts
- cleaning and dismantling of engine and car components
- painting
- regular change of fluids (e.g., oil, transmission fluid)
- accidental spills or leaks
- solvents during regular handling activities
- vehicle washing



Auto Business Pollution Sources

Auto refrigerants - refrigerants used in auto air conditioning systems consists mainly in:

- CFC-12 (Freon 12) was used as refrigerant in cars before 1995, it is currently banned.
- HFC-134 more recently used – it does not affect the ozone layer but it is a greenhouse gas.

Auto paints - paints contain a series of organic solvents such as:

- Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) – the solvent of choice due to its high volatility and relative high solubility in water. If higher amounts accumulate in the environment, MEK may travel over higher distances in groundwater.



Auto cleaning rags - their improper environmental disposal/storage may result in pollution of the surrounding environment. These rags usually are contaminated with:

- Oils
- Heavy metals (a suite of metals could leach from the engine parts)

Old replaced auto batteries- split or broken batteries constitute an environment hazard and should be handled as hazardous waste. They may contain:

- Acid solutions
- Pb

Repair spills and leaks - spills and leaks may occur during the repair work or normal storage of cleaning solvents, paints, engine fluids, etc.

How to Clean Automotive Spills

Inspect the area where waste/used fluids are held. The area should have secondary containment system. In the District of Columbia, all used-oil generated and contained in above-ground tanks must have secondary containment.

Verify paperwork (manifests) for the proper removal of waste/used fluids from the site.

Small Spills & Drips

- Wipe-up spills with rags--do not saturate the rag.
- Used rags must be stored in a sealed container before transporting to a professional laundering service.
- Do not use your own laundry machine to wash used rags or employee uniforms. Send used rags to a professional laundering service.
- Dispose of rags properly (to a professional disposal company).



How to Clean Automotive Spills (cont.)

Oil Spills

- Use a mop that absorbs oil ONLY (transfer used oil to a drum for recycling).
- Use dry clean-up methods when cleaning outside lots, and inside of your garage. This means never hosing down your work area.
- Use rags to dry the surface.

Antifreeze Spills

- Use a dedicated cloth mop to clean up spill.
- Transfer to a waste coolant drum for recycling.
- Use rags to dry the surface.

Gasoline and Solvent Spills

- Use an absorbent and dispose of it as hazardous waste.
- Store in a drum for flammables until time of disposal.
- Dispose of solvents, degreasers, and used automotive fluids properly. Large drums must be clearly labeled, capped, and free of debris. Do not allow these containers to deteriorate.
- Always use absorbent materials to clean fluid spills. Sand or kitty litter can be used for this purpose. Small spills or drips can be wiped clean with rags which should be laundered through a contractor.
- Drain your used oil filters prior to disposal. Keep oil filters where they are protected from the weather and will not drip.