



October 2018

Caring for your car in an environmentally friendly manner

Vehicle maintenance and repair activities are potentially significant sources of stormwater runoff pollution. What is stormwater runoff pollution you may ask? Stormwater runoff flows from rooftops, driveways, paved roads, bare soil, and lawns into stormwater drainage systems, which includes catch basins, yard inlets, pipes, ditches, ponds and streams. It picks up pollutants and transports them directly to our waterways where they are discharged with no treatment and are detrimental to our environment.

Engine repair and service, brake and transmission work, parts cleaning, replacement of vehicle fluids, and outdoor vehicle storage can all contribute a number of contaminants to stormwater runoff such as detergents, detailing chemicals, toxic hydrocarbons (motor oil, gasoline, diesel fuel and greases), heavy metals such as lead, copper and zinc, antifreeze solvents and other toxic chemicals that can harm water quality.

Pollution Prevention and Control Measures

Repair and Maintenance Activities:

- Vehicle maintenance and repair activities should be done in an indoor garage or vehicle maintenance area whenever possible.
- Never work on a vehicle in the street or near a stormwater drain or drainage ditch, or anywhere that contaminants could come into contact with rain or stormwater runoff.
- For maintenance work being done outdoors, always use a tarp, drip pan, ground cloth, sheet of plywood, cardboard or newspaper under the vehicle to capture any leaks or spills. Choose to work on a flat surface where you can easily clean up accidental spills. Always use a funnel when pouring liquids products or wastes to avoid spills.
- Capture vehicle fluids in separate drip pans or containers. Do not mix fluids in the same container as it limits the ability to recycle them.
- Immediately clean up vehicle fluid spills with rags or other absorbent materials such as kitty litter, saw dust or oil absorbent.

- Many brake pads contain copper, which wears off as the pads wear. Use shop cloths to wipe as much brake dust as possible from rotors and drums before using brake cleaner fluid. Do not hose down brake pads, rotors or drums.

Material and Waste Handling:

- Collect used oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids in separate containers with tight fitting lids and properly recycle at a nearby auto parts store or service station.
- Drain and recycle used oil filters. Poke holes in the filter and place in a funnel over a waste oil container for several hours before recycling.
- Place used, cracked or leaking batteries in a non-leaking secondary container and dispose of properly at recycling or household hazardous waste facilities.
- Place oily and used rags and absorbent pads in a plastic bag and place in the trash.
- Sweep up any used kitty litter, sawdust or oil absorbent used to clean up a fluid spill and dispose in trash.
- Never pour liquid vehicle wastes to floor drains, sinks, or into any other sanitary sewer connection, and do not dispose of liquid wastes to a stormwater drain or drainage ditch.

For questions, contact the Peachtree Corners Stormwater Department at 678-691-1200 or via email to kfrancesconi@peachtreecornersga.gov

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