

Protect Spa Creek & You Help Save the Chesapeake Bay

What goes into our storm drain flows directly into Spa Creek—*untreated*—and ultimately ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. Anything splashed, poured, spilled or dumped on streets, alleys and gutters near Spa Creek is washed by rainwater into the storm drain system. You can prevent pollutants from entering Spa Creek by following these Best Management Practices.

The GOAL: ONLY RAIN GOES DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESSES

Vehicle Fueling

- Use dry clean-up methods only. Sweep, don't hose.
- Clean up spilled oil, gas or other automotive fluids immediately with absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust, or sand and sweep it up with a broom. Dispose of sweepings in the trash.
- Clean up using a damp cloth on pumps and a damp mop on pavement area to remove oil and gas residue that can be washed into storm drains.
- Cover fueling stations with a canopy or roof to prevent direct contact with rainfall.
- Locate storm drain inlets away from the immediate vicinity of the fueling area.
- Install a perimeter sand filter to capture/treat runoff.

Vehicle Washing

- Wash vehicles in a covered, contained bay so water can be collected and directed into the sewer system where it will be treated.
- If washing vehicles outside, use a permeable surface such as grass or gravel, or a washpad that has a containment system.
- Use biodegradable, water-based soaps.
- When washing vehicles make sure the area traps pollutants by using temporary berms, drain plugs or other containment system.

Vehicle Storage

- Check vehicles for leaks before parking on lots and inspect the vehicles daily.
- Do not store wrecked vehicles on lots unless runoff containment and treatment systems are in place.
- Use drip pans or other spill containment measures for vehicles that will be parked for extended periods.
- Use absorbent material to clean up automotive fluids from parking lots.

Vehicle Maintenance and Repair

- Conduct all vehicle and equipment repairs indoors or under a cover if done outdoors.
- Collect used antifreeze, oil, grease, oil filters, cleaning solutions, solvents, batteries, hydraulic and transmission fluids and properly recycle.
- Designate a specific location for outdoor maintenance activities designed to prevent stormwater pollution by the use of temporary berms, drain plugs or other containment system.

Outdoor Material Storage

- Store liquids indoors or on an impervious surface with secondary containment.
- Store hazardous materials in labeled containers, under cover, out of the rain, and on pallets to facilitate inspections for leaks.
- Keep an up-to-date inventory of materials stored outdoors, and preferably store indoors.
- Keep dumpster area clean and covered. Ensure dumpster plug is in place.
- Enclose storage areas by building a berm around them to capture runoff.

Educate

- Educate your employees regarding storage area maintenance and other practices to keep pollutants out of storm drains.
- Label storm drains "Chesapeake Bay Drainage" or "No Dumping" signs to deter disposal of waste water of any kind.

Did you know that it only takes 4 quarts of oil, or about 1 oil change to pollute 1 million gallons of water?

This fact sheet is part of the Spa Creek Stewardship Program, an initiative of the Spa Creek Conservancy (SCC). The SCC is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Spa Creek watershed through education, preservation, mitigation and restoration.

Learn more at www.spacreek.org

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