

## PROPER OUTDOOR STORAGE

# Tips For Towing & Automobile Storage

The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff support companies like yours in preventing water pollution. The fact that you're reading this fact sheet means you have already decided to take steps to do the right thing when cleaning your business. Thank you for keeping our water safe and healthy.

### Towing and Automobile Storage Facilities

- Facilities accepting or storing cars on the property must have adequate drip pans available.
- Facilities must have adequate supplies of tarps to cover vehicles that come in with missing hoods or have the engine area exposed. Rain water must be prevented from entering the engine compartment while the vehicle is stored outside.
- Facilities storing or accepting vehicles onsite are ultimately responsible for compliance with all storm water regulations.
- Do not rinse or wash vehicles onsite unless the facility has a permitted wash pad structure from the local waste water agency and city. Keep vehicle rinse and wash water out of the storm drain.

### Inspect Vehicles

- Inform employees about the need to inspect vehicles being dropped off. Any hazardous materials found in the vehicles must be disposed of properly. Contact your local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).
- Drivers of the tow truck service must inform the accepting facility of possible leaks observed.
- Drain fluids from leaking or wrecked vehicles immediately.
- Employees at the repair shop or automobile storage yard must perform frequent inspections and ensure that vehicles are not leaking onto the pavement. Place drip pans under leaking vehicles.
- Any spills must be cleaned up immediately using dry methods and dispose of properly.



**Keep all wash water, fluids and oils OUT of the storm drains. Keep paved surfaces clean at your auto storage area to prevent polluting storm water runoff.**



Draining wash water from cleaning activities into the gutters or storm drains will damage sensitive habitats and kill wildlife. Water flowing into storm drains travels directly to local creeks and then to **San Francisco Bay**. It does not go to a wastewater treatment plant.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at [www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org).



Protecting Alameda County  
Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay  
[cleanwaterprogram.org](http://cleanwaterprogram.org)

## Best Management Practices

- Label/stencil each storm drain inlet on your storage facility to remind workers and customers that no dumping is allowed.
- Keep surfaces clean. Do not allow fluids to accumulate or run across surfaces.
- Clean up spills immediately with rags, absorbents, or wet/dry vacuum. Never allow vehicle fluids to flow into a storm drain inlet or the sanitary sewer. Properly dispose of spent absorbent.
- Store parts and equipment inside or in enclosed areas.
- Cover or enclose exposed materials with tarps or PVC enclosures when indoor storage or more permanent containers and coverings are impractical.
- Store vehicle fluids inside. If vehicle fluids must be stored outside then:
  - ✓ Keep a roof and walls around your vehicle fluids to protect them from rain.
  - ✓ Keep containers elevated to protect them from water run-off.
  - ✓ Place primary containers inside double containment.
- Vehicle fluids must be properly managed and cannot be disposed in the garbage, sanitary sewer, or storm drain.
- See ACCWP How Your Vehicle Service Facility Can Prevent Stormwater Pollution booklet for more best management practices on:
  - ✓ Waste disposal and recycling
  - ✓ Vehicle washing
  - ✓ Maintenance work

## KEY DEFINITIONS

The **Storm Drain System** was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The **Sanitary Sewer System** collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.



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PROGRAM

[cleanwaterprogram.org](http://cleanwaterprogram.org)

## CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Simple changes to your operations and maintenance can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at [www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org).

## For More Help

For advice and approval on wastewater disposal to the sanitary sewer system, contact:

### Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland or Piedmont

East Bay Municipal

Utility District (EBMUD)..... (510) 287-1651

### Castro Valley

Castro Valley Sanitary District..(510) 537-0757

### City of Dublin

Dublin-San Ramon

Services District..... (925) 828-0515

### Cities of Fremont, Newark or Union City

Union Sanitary District..... (510) 477-7500

### City of Hayward

City of Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900

### City of Livermore

City of Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100

### City of Pleasanton

City of Livermore ..... (925) 931-5500

### Cities of San Lorenzo, unincorporated portions of San Leandro and Hayward

Oro Loma Sanitary District ..... (510) 481-6971

### City of San Leandro

City of San Leandro..... (510) 577-3401

## Local Stormwater Agencies

For advice on avoiding disposal to the storm drain system, contact:

Alameda..... (510) 747-7930

Albany ..... (510) 528-5770

Berkeley..... (510) 981-6442

Dublin ..... (925) 833-6630

Emeryville ..... (510) 596-3728

Fremont ..... (510) 494-4570

Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900

Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100

Newark ..... (510) 578-4286

Oakland ..... (510) 238-6544

Piedmont..... (510) 420-3050

Pleasanton ..... (925) 931-5500

San Leandro..... (510) 577-3401

Unincorporated Alameda

County..... (510) 567-6700

Union City..... (510) 675-5308

Clean Water Program..... (510) 670-6548