

Many common car maintenance routines contribute to ocean pollution and some auto repair establishments may not be aware of activities that could be negatively impacting our marine environment. Water run-off from streets, parking lots and driveways picks up oil and grease dripped from cars, asbestos worn from brake linings, zinc from tires, and organic compounds and metals from spilled fuels. These chemicals drain into the ocean, harming sea 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.

This brochure provides you with a few simple practices you can follow to insure a healthy environment for both your repair facility and our local waterways.



Post BMP's where employees and customers can see them. Showing customers you protect the ocean is good public relations.

## WHAT IS MS4

MS4 is commonly known as "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems."

The Town of Walworth has been mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to be included in this program to control stormwater runoff in order to protect and improve the Nation's waterways. Polluted stormwater runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment.

This program is intended to improve the Nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that stormwater picks up and carries into storm sewer systems during storm events. Common pollutants include oil and grease from roadways, pesticides from lawns, sediment from construction sites, and carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles. When deposited into nearby waterways through MS4 discharges, these pollutants can impair the waterways, thereby discouraging recreational use of the resource, contaminating drinking water supplies, and interfering with the habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife.

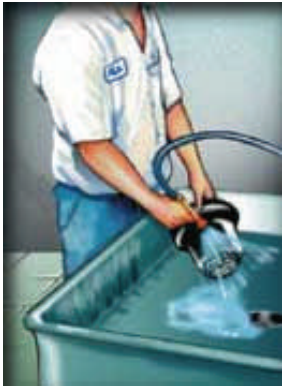
## Automotive Repair & MS4 What does this mean?



We all live in a watershed. A watershed is a land area that drains into a waterbody, like a creek, river, or lake. Think of a watershed as a series of funnels nested inside each other. For example, when it rains, all the water from a watershed may travel to a creek or waterbody. From there, the creek will flow into a larger stream, which in turn collects water from a larger watershed. This brochure will provide you with some tips for helping to keep our waters clean.

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### Cleaning Auto Parts

Scrape parts with a brush rather than liquid cleaners. Arrange drip pans and drain boards so that fluids are drained back into the sink or fluid holding tank. Use non-toxic cleaning products.



**Metal Polishing and Grinding:** Keep a bin under your lathe or grinder to capture metal filings. Send uncontaminated filing to a scrap metal recycler for reclamation.



### Proper Storage of Hazardous Waste

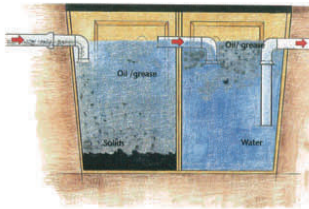
Keep your liquid wastes segregated. Many fluids can be recycled. Store all materials under cover or inside to prevent contamination by rainwater.



### Preventing Leaks and Spills

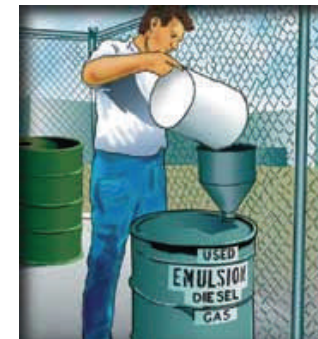
Place drip pans underneath to capture fluids. Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work areas. Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as unused gas, transmission and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage.

Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills. Use a funnel when pouring liquids and place a tray underneath to catch spills.



### Oil/Water Separator & Cleaning up Spills

Automotive repair facilities must have an oil/water separator installed. These must be maintained with an annual maintenance schedule submitted to the town. This should include pumping and cleaning of the system. Follow your hazardous materials response plan. Be sure that all employees are aware of the plan and are capable of implementing each phase of the plan. Use dry methods for spill cleanup (sweeping, absorbent material, etc.)



### Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Recycle solvents, oil, used oil filters, anti-freeze, batteries, lubricants and metal filings collected from grinding/polishing auto parts. Contact a hazardous waste hauler to dispose of saturated absorbents.