

## Please Protect our Drinking water



This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing stormwater best management practices. Other pamphlets include:

- ♦ **Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control**
- ♦ **Food Service Industry**
- ♦ **Pet Waste Management**
- ♦ **Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities**
- ♦ **Detention Basin Maintenance**
- ♦ **HOAs, Condo Associations, Landlords**

For more information or  
assistance with a stormwater related  
issue, contact:

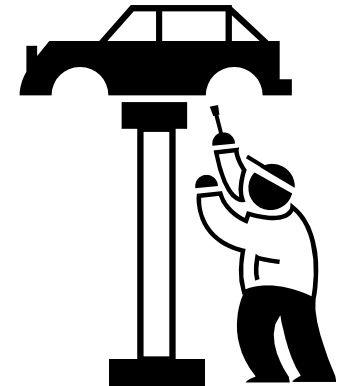
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## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP)



### **Automotive Maintenance & Car Care**

Gas Stations  
Auto Repair Shops  
Auto Body Shops  
Car Dealerships  
Mobile Fleet Maintenance  
Mobile Fleet Washing

## Storm Water Pollution Prevention Clean Water: Our Only Choice

The Town of Townsend has many stormwater structures consisting mostly of grassy swales, detention basins and catch basins. These structures are designed to collect excess rain from paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and roofs. They prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets, homes, and businesses. Because the structures contain no filters, they also serve the unintended function of carrying urban pollution straight into our wetlands, streams and eventually the Squannacook River and our drinking water.

This pamphlet provides examples of how you can reduce or eliminate pollution from entering our streams from "stormwater" or "runoff".

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include, but are not limited to: oil and other automobile fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Runoff pollution eventually flows to the Squannacook River through the stormwater structures that take water and debris straight from the streets to our streams. Each day tremendous amounts of polluted runoff enters our streams untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our wetlands and rivers and tons of trash along their banks. The pollution eventually makes its way to our groundwater that is Townsend's source of drinking water.

Runoff contaminates our streams and rivers, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging our storm drains and catch basins. Overall, stormwater pollution costs cities and towns millions of dollars per year.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will help reduce stormwater runoff pollution and ensure cleaner streams and rivers, preserve our drinking water and a cleaner Town of Townsend.



## Car Maintenance Problems

Many common car maintenance routines contribute to storm water pollution. Water runoff 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 eventually drain into the Squannacook River and its tributaries, affecting the water quality and our drinking water.

### Solutions

Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as handling, storing and disposing of materials properly can prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains.

#### 1. Purchasing & Storing Materials

**Order only amounts needed**, expired chemicals are costly to dispose of. Ensure **containers have no leaks**. Use the **least hazardous** material for the job. Ensure materials are **labelled properly** and are **stored in original containers**.

#### 2. Cleaning Parts & Work Areas

**Use aqueous cleaners** instead of solvents. If you need to use solvents, **use a wire brush** for cleaning first. **Use non-toxic cleaning products**. Baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps and chrome; mix soda with a mild biodegradable dishwashing soap for wheels and tires; for windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water. **Don't hose down your shop floor**. It is best to sweep it regularly.

#### 3. Spills

**Prepare and use easy to find spill containment and cleanup kits**. Include safety equipment and cleanup materials appropriate to the type and quantity of materials that could spill. Prevent waste oil spills by using drip pans. Place oil parts in drip pan rather than on the floor.

**For small spills, pour kitty litter, sawdust or cornmeal on spills to bind liquids**. For information on proper disposal, contact the Townsend Board of Health at (978)597-1713.

**Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills**. Use a funnel when pouring liquids (like lubricants or motor oil) and place a pan underneath to catch spills. Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers. Clean up spills immediately.

## 4. Fluids

**Change fluids carefully**. Use a drip pan to avoid spills. fluids such as unused gas, transmission and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage.

**Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles.**

## 5. Washing Vehicles

**Prevent** oil and grease, suspended solids and toxins from **washing into the storm drains**. **Designate a washing site** where water drains to a collection tank. The area must be **paved and well marked** as a wash area. Train all employees to use the designated area. Use **biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent**.

## 6. Fueling Vehicles

Gas and diesel spills are common when fueling. Design fuel areas so that all **spills are contained** and runoff cannot carry spills into storm drains. **Slope the containment area toward drains** connected to a collection tank. **Cover the fueling area** to keep rain from washing away spilled materials. **Extend the cover** several feet beyond the containment area. **Keep absorbent materials on site** to allow prompt cleanup of spills. **Post signs** instructing people not to overfill gas tanks. Overfilling causes spills and vents gas fumes to the air.

## 7. Maintenance

Perform vehicle and equipment **maintenance in a covered area**, if possible. If outside, **stabilize any disturbed/eroded areas** by establishing permanent vegetation.

## 8. Minimize application of hazardous fertilizers and pesticides.

## 9. Recycle

**Recycle what you can:**

Metal scraps, Used tires, Batteries, Aluminum, Used oils, Water-based paints, Paper and cardboard, Antifreeze. Check the yellow pages under "Recycling" to locate a recycling facility for your particular product.

## 10. Employee Education

**Educate your employees**. Include these BMPs in new-employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions. Contact the Townsend Stormwater Authority if you need assistance.