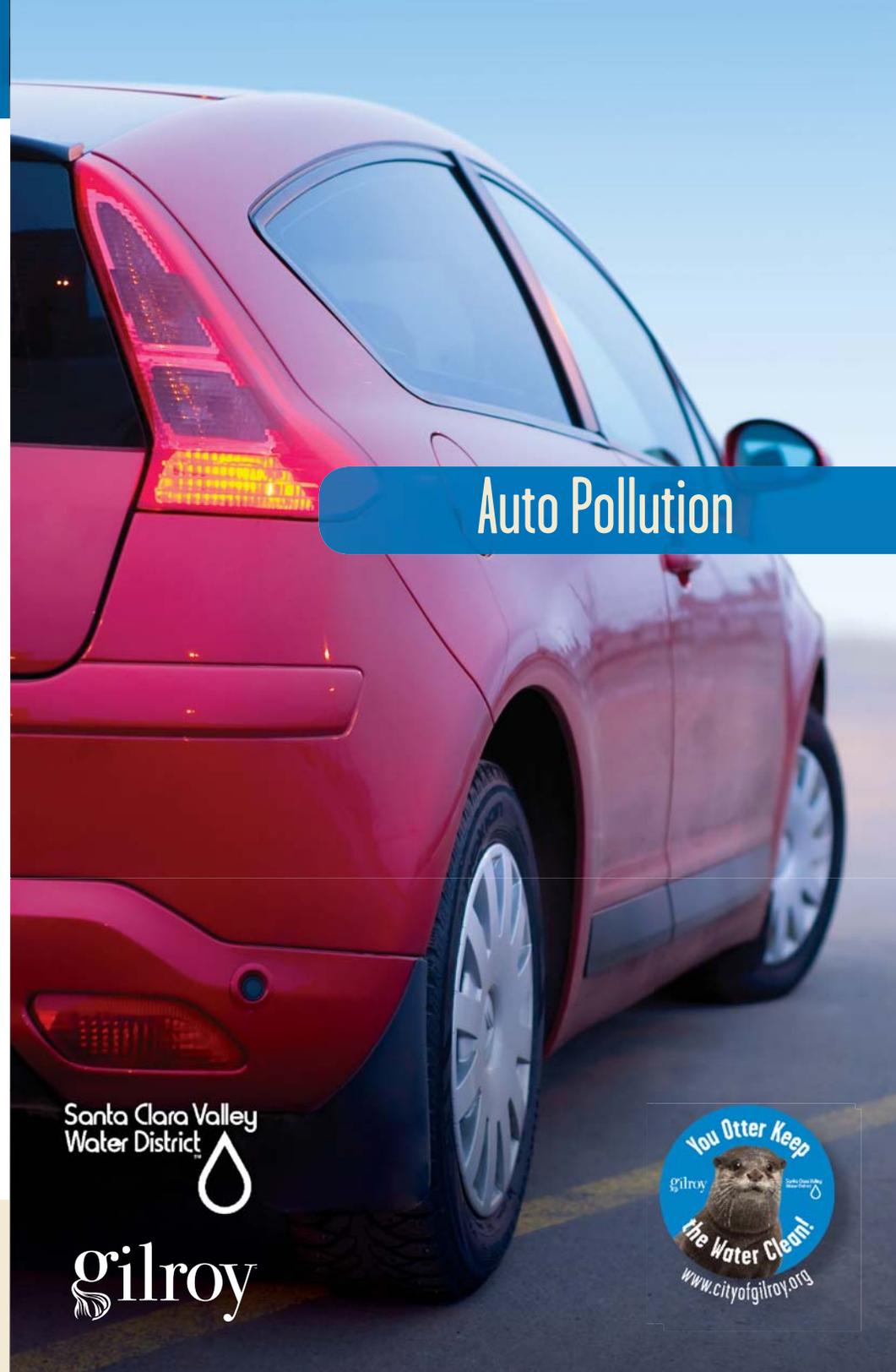


Best Management Practices for Automotive Businesses

Follow these BMPs to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into the storm drains. Just remember "only rain in the storm drain."

Activities	Best Management Practices
Pavement Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweep parking lots and other paved areas periodically to remove debris. Dispose of debris in the garbage. When cleaning small outdoor pavement areas, use a mop or rags and a bucket containing water with a small amount of detergent. Put the used rags in the garbage and the dirty water into the sanitary sewer. For large lot cleaning use commercial pavement/parking lot cleaning companies.
Vehicle Washing and Detailing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash water may only be discharged into the sanitary sewer through an oil/sand interceptor. A permit is required from the Pretreatment Program. Clean up any debris or materials from other cleaning activity by sweeping, absorbing or vacuuming. Dispose into the garbage. Chemical products or sprayed-on cleaners cannot be rinsed into the ground or storm drains. Read the manufacturer's label and follow the directions for disposal. Rinse water from battery cleaning contains lead, so use absorbent material and dispose of it with the hazardous waste. Contact City of Gilroy Chemical Control before discharging any waste liquids into the sanitary sewer.
Spill Cleanup in Outdoor Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have spill cleanup kits ready in case of a spill, and store kits in convenient locations. Clean up any spills immediately using the absorbent in your spill kit. For absorbent that is mildly contaminated with oil or consumer products, bag it and place it in the trash. For large spills contact Chemical Control for disposal advice. For an uncontrolled spill call the Fire Department immediately (911). Do not place leftover, old or spilled chemical products or wastes into dumpsters, sink drains or the storm drain. Call Chemical Control or call the County Health Dept. to determine if a chemical product or waste material may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste.
Chemical Product Handling and Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain necessary Fire Department or Health Department Permits for Hazardous Materials and/or hazardous wastes. Many materials, even non-hazardous ones, are required to be collected, stored and either recycled or disposed of as hazardous waste. Batteries, fluorescent lights, antifreeze and used oil are all hazardous wastes.
Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect dumpsters daily. Look for spills and/or leakage. Clean up using dry methods. Repair leaking and/or damaged dumpsters. Keep dumpsters and other waste containers closed to prevent stormwater from entering them.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train employees to inspect your property for proper BMPs. Train employees regularly on how to clean equipment and clean up spills. Stencil dumpster areas and storm inlets to discourage illegal dumping.



Auto Pollution

Santa Clara Valley
Water District

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Santa Clara Valley
Water District

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City of Gilroy
Community Development Department
7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy CA 95020
(408) 846-0451 Fax (408) 846-0429
www.cityofgilroy.org



Auto Pollution

Pollution Prevention For Automotive Businesses and Automotive Maintenance Work

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, the Pajaro River and the Monterey Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these waters, where they degrade water quality, harm aquatic life, and pollute beaches. In general, it is illegal to discharge wastewater to the storm drain.

All automotive businesses can adopt common sense practices that require modest changes to routine operations or maintenance procedures to reduce or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. The table on the back of this brochure identifies activities that automotive businesses can adopt to control or eliminate urban runoff pollution.

Automotive businesses that have a need to routinely wash vehicles or other equipment are required to have a wash pad where the water is collected and sent to grease/sand interceptors. These are typically devices that are buried in the ground.

A wash pad is used to contain and drain the wash water to a trap or interceptor. These interceptors have compartments that allow the oil and grease to float, and dirt and sand to settle, letting the water flow into the sanitary sewer. These interceptors need to be sized correctly and periodically cleaned to keep them working properly.

Automotive fluids shall not be allowed to flow to the interceptor.

See the back of this brochure for more pollution prevention requirements.

Stormwater from Morgan Hill and Gilroy flows to the Monterey Bay where sea otters and other wildlife live and where people enjoy recreation on the beaches.

The Pretreatment Program regulates non-household waste water discharges to the South County Regional Waste Water Authority treatment plant (SCRWA Plant) under SCRWA Ordinance 93-01. Gilroy Chemical Control Inspectors inspect and enforce this ordinance in both Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the SCRWA sewer plant where the wastewater is treated. The SCRWA sewer plant is designed to treat sewer wastewater, but not automotive fluids. Wastewater is then pumped into ponds where it evaporates or soaks into the ground. The SCRWA plant even makes recycled water that is used at golf courses and parks.

The Urban Runoff Control Program, in addition to the Pretreatment Program, has been established to prevent pollution of the creeks, rivers, and beaches. The cities are required to educate businesses and enforce urban runoff controls to prevent or eliminate pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and the Monterey Bay.

The Municipal Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rainwater to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks, the Pajaro River and into the Monterey Bay without any treatment.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

Hazardous Wastes are materials that must be sent to a hazardous waste recycler, treatment or disposal facility. Any company that generates hazardous waste must register with the local CUPA program.

The CUPA Program in Gilroy is run by the same agency that does the Pretreatment Program. In Morgan Hill it is run by the County Department of Environmental Health (DEH). If you have questions about Hazardous Wastes, please contact the appropriate agency:

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City of Gilroy
Chemical Control
(408) 846-0439


CITY OF MORGAN HILL

Santa Clara County
Department of
Environmental Health
(408) 918-3400

