



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WATERSHED PROTECTION

Automotive Maintenance & Water Pollution:

What You Need to Know

Be the Solution. Prevent Runoff Pollution.

The water that flows into storm drains is not treated before flowing into Riverside County's creeks, rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean (unlike the sanitary sewer system). It should never contain washwater or pollutants like oil, gas, antifreeze, lubricants, and other hazardous substances generated by vehicles on the road, at body shops, or gas stations. If these pollutants are not properly contained and cleaned up right away, they can runoff into the storm drain and harm our waterways.

Preventing runoff pollution while serving your customers protects aquatic life, water quality, and keeps our waterways thriving. While conducting business activities, make sure to contain your work area, utilize control mechanisms like using as little water as possible, and properly dispose of all debris and wastewater.

Automotive Maintenance Pollutant Sources

Leaking Vehicles

Leaking vehicles can generate pollutants like gasoline, oil, antifreeze, and other substances.

Body Repair & Painting

Repairing vehicles can generate pollutants like paint, oil, grease, washwater, metal, and other substances.

Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning

Cleaning can generate pollutants like dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint, copper, and other substances.

Gas Stations

Fueling areas can generate pollutants like gasoline, antifreeze, washwater, and other substances.



Best Management Practices for Automotive Maintenance

Protect our waterways while keeping your shop in compliance with the law by implementing these BMPs (best management practices):



Who We Are

Riverside County Watershed Protection is a partnership program between Riverside County, the Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and 27 cities that manage watershed programs which protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of the water and the natural environment of our watersheds.

What We Do

The partnership uses a combination of public education, best management practices, evaluation, and water quality monitoring to eliminate stormwater pollution in our waterways and comply with all federal, state, and local regulations. Our aim is to empower residents with information about pollution prevention and implement tactics that keep our watersheds healthy.

Contact Us

To report pollution:



Call (800) 506-2555



Visit rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution



For emergencies, dial 911



Plan Ahead

- ✓ Inspect equipment every day and repair leaks right away.
- ✓ Identify all actions that can cause spills or release pollutants like changing oil, painting, replenishing air conditioning coolant, and more.
- ✓ Have a spill kit handy.



Locate

- ✓ Locate and protect all storm drains nearby.
- ✓ Only do wet sanding and painting in enclosed areas which have vacuum hoods and filters.
- ✓ Clean and drain parts in a self-contained parts washer, unit, or solvent sink.



Contain

- ✓ Drain vehicle fluids into closed containers for proper disposal.
- ✓ Place a drip pan under vehicles.
- ✓ Report any spills that have entered the street, gutter, or storm drain by calling 800-506-2555 or going to rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution.



Collect

- ✓ Use absorbents like rags to clean up any spills right away. If your spill contains hazardous waste, make sure to properly dispose of the absorbent at a Riverside County household hazardous waste facility.
- ✓ Store car parts, batteries, oils, and other materials and waste off the ground, under overhead cover, and in labeled containers.
- ✓ Clean work areas using dry methods (use a vacuum or broom to sweep up debris).



Properly Dispose

- ✓ Dispose of hazardous waste (motor oil, oil filters, oil-soaked absorbents or rags, antifreeze, and non-leaking batteries) at the Murrieta, Beaumont, or Moreno Valley ABOP and PaintCare Facilities. Visit rcwaste.org/hhw for more information.
- ✓ Recycle materials whenever possible.



For more information about stormwater-safe car maintenance, visit: rcwatershed.org/residents/at-home/car-maintenance.

