

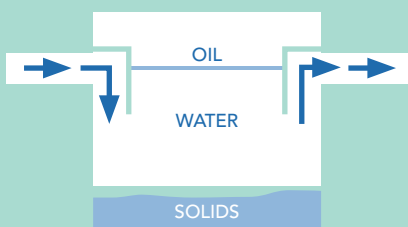
Safeguarding the Wastewater System and the Environment

Automotive Repair Industry - Recommended Practices



1. Capture Wastewater

Never discharge oil, grease, antifreeze or solids to the sewer system or any place where they may be introduced to a storm sewer or watercourse, such as a river, creek or stream.



2. Oil-Water Separator

Install an oil-water separator that captures runoff from all shop area floor drains and wash sinks before it goes to the sanitary sewer.

An oil-water separator is a building and plumbing code requirement. Hire an engineer or a plumbing professional to help select the oil-water separator for your operation.



3. Separator Maintenance

Inspect the oil-water separator monthly, and have it cleaned out by a qualified service provider. This should be done according to the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations, or, as a general guideline, before the oil level reaches 50mm (2 inches) above the outlet, and before the solids level reaches 150mm (6 inches) below the outlet.



4. Automotive Fluids

Minimize the quantities of automotive fluids, cleaners, paints and solvents kept on site. Appropriately dispose of old or used fluids and containers through a Provincial Take Back Program (if applicable) or by returning to the supplier. For more information, check the Recycling Council of British Columbia website at www.rcbc.bc.ca or call 604-RECYCLE.



5. Labelling

Label automotive fluids, cleaners, paints and solvent according to WHMIS requirements and store in a secure area where spills can be contained.



6. Spill Clean-up

Promptly clean up spills with a dry absorbent and appropriately dispose of used absorbents as outlined on the spill kits.



7. Staff Training

Train staff on the practices described above and maintain good records of inspection and cleaning to optimize the oil-water separator cleaning frequency.

For more information, see "Guide to Managing Wastewater – Automotive Repair Industry" (available at metrovancouver.org)