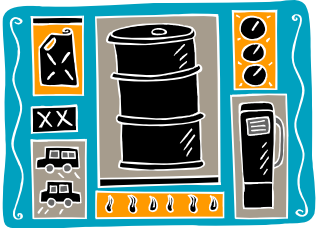

Storm Water Runoff — Pollution Prevention



Storm water runoff from gasoline stations can be one of the major contributors to storm water pollution. Used oil, gasoline, brake fluid, antifreeze, paints, solvents, grease, and litter are some of the pollutants that can get into storm drains. Storm drains do NOT connect to sanitary sewer systems or wastewater treatment facilities and should NOT be used for disposal of vehicle-related fluids.

Retail gasoline stations are a potential source of storm water pollution. Fuel dispensing areas can accumulate vehicle-related fluids and other materials that may be harmful to the environment. **Discharging, powerwashing, or disposing of these fluids and materials to the storm drain is prohibited.**

Retail gasoline stations can reduce or eliminate storm water pollution by making changes to routine operations or maintenance practices. This brochure suggests methods for eliminating or reducing storm water pollution.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

1 Fuel Dispensing Areas

Sweep up litter and debris; used rags and/or absorbents to clean up leaks and spills. Fueling areas must never be washed down. Potential storm water runoff pollutants such as trash, grease, gasoline, detergents, and metals can come into contact with storm water and create polluted runoff. Keep these materials covered, labeled, and stored in appropriate containers. Install spill containment and overfill prevention equipment onto underground storage tanks. Use automatic shutoff equipment for fuel dispensing nozzles. Post signs warning vehicle owners against “topping off” of vehicle fuel tanks. Maintain a regular inspection and repair schedule for equipment. Take appropriate precautions when receiving shipments of gasoline.

2 Other Areas of the Station

“Spot clean” leaks and drips on a regular basis. Leaks are not considered cleaned up until the absorbent has been picked up and disposed of properly. Make a Spill Response Plan available to employees and ensure that they have been trained in all aspects of the plan. Train employees on proper methods of handling and disposing of waste materials. Make sure that employees understand storm water discharge prohibitions, wastewater discharge requirements, and the best management practices discussed in this brochure.

3 Outdoor Trash Bins, Dumpsters, and Air & Water Supply Areas

Sweep these areas to maintain a debris-free station. Dispose of debris, do not sweep it into the gutter. Never hose-off paved surfaces. “Spot clean” leaks and drips regularly. Minimize the possibility of storm water pollution by doing at least one of the following: use watertight trash receptacles; install a roof over the trash receptacle area; or install a containment berm around the area.

4 Automatic Vehicle Washes

Wash vehicles and equipment in designated areas only. Wash areas should be paved and fitted to drain only to the sanitary sewer, a septic tank, or an onsite treatment unit. Discharges from automatic vehicle washes to the storm drain system are PROHIBITED. Doing so would constitute an illicit non-storm water discharge. Use biodegradable, phosphate-free water based cleaners when possible. Store hazardous materials safely and make sure the materials are clearly labeled. A commercial vehicle wash may be an alternative if your station is not properly equipped.



Storm Water Runoff and Gas Station Pollutants....

- Oil and gasoline spilled onto paved areas are easily washed away by water. One gallon of oil can contaminate 1,000,000 gallons of water.
- Engine and brake residues contain antifreeze, grease, oil, copper, and asbestos.
- Engine degreasers contain copper and brass.
- Lead, oil, and grease are residues of radiator flushing.
- Oil, grease, and detergents drain from car washing.
- Engine washing releases aluminum and iron.
- Brakes are a source of asbestos.
- Cadmium can come from worn tires.



For More Information About Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:
<http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/water/permits/stormwater.html>

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality:
520-740-3340
<http://www.deq.pima.gov/water/stwmgmprog.html>

City of Tucson Department of Transportation:
<http://dot.ci.tucson.az.us/stormwater/>



Gasoline Stations — Best Management Practices:

Preventing Storm Water Pollution



March 2009

Pima County
Department of Environmental Quality

150 West Congress Street

Tucson, Arizona 85701

520-740-3340

www.deq.pima.gov
