

Fuels, solvents, metals, battery acids, flammable substances and caustic cleaners from the recycling of auto parts can pollute our waterways, damage sewers and affect the health of sewerage system workers.

Your business must install equipment to remove these harmful substances from wastewater before it is discharged.

For tips on installing and maintaining this equipment, please refer to our booklet on *Managing trade wastewater in the motor vehicle industry*.



The following tips can help reduce the impact of your trade wastewater on the environment

Vehicle enters the workshop

Leaking motor oil, radiator fluid, brake fluid, battery acid and fuel can leak from damaged vehicles prior to repair work. To minimise the risk from spills:

- Wipe up minor spills immediately, place trays under leaking parts and use a pressure cleaner to wash the floor.
- Do not pump neat fuel or neat oil to the sewer through an oil water separator.
- Capture and store brake fluid, motor oil and fuels in drums within a bunded area for off-site removal by a licensed contractor.
- Capture and store used radiator fluid for removal off-site.
- Store batteries in a bunded area where waste and spills drain to a blind pit. Place a plastic pallet under the batteries



Parts and engine washing

Washing and cleaning motor vehicle parts and engines creates waste such as oil, grit and residues from caustic cleaners and solvents.

- Wash small parts in a solvent-based recycling parts washer.
- Use a pressure cleaner and quick break detergent to wash large parts and engines. The wash area should be covered by a roof and bunded to contain washwater and exclude rainwater.
- If you use a chemical bath to clean engine blocks and engine heads, refer to our fact sheet *Engine reconditioners*.

Vehicle dismantling and parts washing areas

Please consider not connecting to the sewer for this type of activity.

- If a floor drain or wash bay is used in this area, you will need to remove oil-based pollutants from the wastewater with an oil water separation system.
- Keep the 'wet area' to an absolute minimum.
- Store chemicals in a bunded area that doesn't drain to the 'wet area'.
- You must dismantle parts in a separate area if you want to discharge your wastewater to the sewer.
- If your business does not use a floor drain or wash bay, use a collection pit to collect liquid waste. Pump out the pit regularly to avoid overflows. You should store waste from the pit in drums for off-site removal by a licensed contractor.
- If you use a chemical bath to clean engine blocks and engine heads, refer to our fact sheet *Engine reconditioners*.



Floor washdown

- Use bunds to prevent washwater leaving the wash area.
- Wash the floor with a quick break detergent and pressure cleaner. It's a good idea to hose in the direction of the collection well in the wash area.

If your premises are connected to or have the ability to discharge into, Council's Sewerage or Storm Water drains; you are subject to Council's Storm Water and Trade Waste bylaws; which means that you may be required to make an application to discharge to these drains; on receipt of the application Council shall decide whether to issue you with conditions of discharge by way of a consent; which is monitored.

Need more info?

**Call: The Pollution Control Team
Resource Engineers
Rotorua District Council
Ph: 07 348 4199**