



AUTOBODY SHOP WASTE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



City of Post Falls Industrial Pretreatment Program (Pretreatment Program)

The City of Post Falls Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) collects and treats wastewater from domestic and industrial sources. Certain industries have the potential to discharge hazardous materials that can negatively impact the WRF and the Spokane River. The Pretreatment Program, along with local businesses, must work together to reduce the amount of potentially hazardous substances in the wastewater system.

Practice Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Best Management Practices (BMPS) are proactive techniques that prevent pollution at the source and prevent negative impacts to the WRF. The Pretreatment Program has developed the following BMPS specific to Autobody shops to assist in meeting requirements and managing costs.

Meet Discharge Limits:

All autobody shops that send their wastewater to the WRF must make sure their wastewater meets the following local discharge limits and prohibitions, summarized, and listed in City of Post Falls Code 13.20.

- **Solids:** Wastewater may not contain discharges with solids greater than one-half inch (1/2”) in any dimension. Solids capable of settling can restrict or block flow in sewer lines. A company or facility that discharges solids that causes a sewage backup is liable for any damages.
- **pH:** The pH of wastewater must remain between 6.0 and 10.0. Wastewater that is too acidic or too alkaline can seriously corrode the sewer system, so the pH must be balanced.
- **Pollutants:** No person shall introduce or cause to be introduced into the WRF any pollutant or wastewater which causes pass through or interference.

<u>Pollutants can include:</u>	<u>The following are sources of pollutants:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copper, lead, nickel, and especially zinc • Hydrocarbons (oil and grease, PAHs) • Toxic chemicals (solvents, chlorinated compounds) • Paints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet and dry sanding • Washing cars and other vehicles • Cleaning floors • Auto body repairs products • Painting

WASHING

Wash water from your cleaning activities may contain pollutants such as toxic hydrocarbons (oil and grease), metals, nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen), suspended solids, or harmful cleaning products.

- Remove dust from vehicle prior to washing.
- Make sure wash water **does not** run into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Discharge wash water through a treatment system or recycling unit to the sanitary sewer, or have it hauled off by a licensed hauler.

Sanding

- Conduct all sanding indoors.
- Sweep or vacuum frequently, especially prior to mopping.
- Mop with a minimum amount of water, and treat the mop water like sanding bucket water.
- Use vacuum sanding equipment whenever possible to reduce the amount of airborne dust.
- **Do not** wet sand in a wash bay or in an area with a floor drain.
- If possible, reduce or eliminate need for a sanding bucket. Use spray bottle to squirt water onto the panel being sanded. This eliminates sanding bucket wastewater and minimizes drips and spills.
- Put a pan under the panel being sanded to collect drips.
- If a wet sanding bucket must be used, either pour the contents into a settling unit or leave it in the bucket to stand undisturbed for 24 to 48 hours before carefully bailing the clear water out of the bucket and dispose of it down the drain or into an oil/water separator.

Painting

- Conduct all painting indoors, preferably in a paint booth.
- Use primers and paints with lower zinc content if they work equally well.
- Minimize use of hose-off degreasers. Brush off dirt and use rags to wipe down parts.
- Minimize waste by calculating paint needs based on surface area and using the proper sprayer cup size.
- Never discharge gun-cleaning solution to the sewer or storm drain.
- Do not use water to control overspray or dust unless it is sure to evaporate in the booth (so the dust can be swept up), or this wastewater is collected. The water should be treated prior to discharge into the sewer system.
- Dispose of non-hazardous dried painting waste in the trash. If hazardous, it must be disposed of appropriately.
- Alternatively, check with your waste hauler to see if they will collect your wet sanding waste.

Hazardous Materials Commonly Found in Automotive Shops

- Fuels and solvents—dispose of used fuels and solvents as hazardous waste.
- Antifreeze should be recycled. Ethylene glycol and propylene glycol should be stored and recycled separately.
- Used motor oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, lubricating oil, compressor oil, gear and metalworking fluid without chlorinated compounds are all considered used motor oil and can be mixed. If used motor oil is recycled it is not considered hazardous waste.
- Shop towels containing solvents, paints, stains, inks, or other chemicals may be ignitable, toxic, or have “listed” solvents that cause them to be dangerous waste. They must be either disposed of as hazardous waste or sent to a properly permitted laundry facility.
- Batteries—Store damaged or leaking batteries in closed containers to prevent toxins from entering either the sanitary sewer or storm sewer.

Miscellaneous BMPS

- When receiving damaged vehicles, inspect for leaks. Use drip pans if necessary.
- When cleaning wheels, avoid the use of acid-based wheel cleaners if soap and elbow grease will do.

Record Keeping and Spill Response

All records should be kept a minimum of 3 years. Records should document routine maintenance, cleaning, waste removal and means of disposal of accumulated waste.

To help prevent spills, store ingredients, products and chemicals in corrosion-resistant containers that will not easily overturn. Use secondary containment as needed to prevent leaks and spills from draining into the wastewater system. Develop a spill response plan and train employees to follow the plan. Post the spill response plan and the contact information for spill notification in a prominent place.

In the event of an accidental discharge or spill of high-strength toxic materials into the wastewater system notification must be made **IMMEDIATELY** to the WRF (see below contact info).

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION	
<u>City of Post Falls Water Reclamation Facility</u> Pretreatment Program (208) 773-1438 pretreatment@postfalls.gov	<u>Hazardous waste handling contact:</u> IDEQ: (208) 769-1422 Panhandle Health District: 1-800-878-2364
<u>Large volumes of spills that are not hazardous to human health and the environment contact:</u> WRF: (208) 773-1438 WRF (after hours): (208) 981-1765 or (208) 981-1766	<u>Proper disposal of materials and recycling contact:</u> CDA Garbage/Post Falls Sanitation (208) 457-1820 Kootenai County Solid Waste Department (208) 446-1430
<u>Hazardous spills contact:</u> Post Falls Fire Department: 9-1-1	<u>Kootenai County Waste Directory:</u> https://spokaneriver.net/wastedirectory/

Note:

1. Wastewater discharged through most indoor drains flows to the WRF and is treated prior to entering the Spokane River. However, some chemicals cannot be treated and pass through the plant into the river.
2. Stormwater and snowmelt flow to outdoor drains, drywells, and grassy areas that drain directly to the river and aquifer without treatment. Any material exposed to rainwater will be washed into the river or aquifer.
3. Always maintain clean outdoor areas and ensure that all storage is kept off the ground and covered to prevent rainwater contamination.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE INTENTIONAL DISCHARGE OF ANY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IS A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF CITY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAW.