

## THE CITY OF BISMARCK NEEDS YOUR HELP!

All auto repair operations that send wastewater to the sewer system must ensure their wastewater complies with all local codes and requirements. Make certain all your employees understand and follow Best Management Practices.

City Ordinance states:

"A user may not discharge or cause to be discharged, directly or indirectly, any of the following substances into the wastewater disposal system or to any public sewer:

- Any pollutants which create a fire or explosion hazard in solid or viscous substances which will or may cause obstruction to the flow in a sewer or other interference with the operation of the wastewater system.
- Any wastewater containing toxic pollutants in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction to injure or interfere with any wastewater treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, or create a toxic effect in the receiving waters of the wastewater disposal system.
- Pollutants which result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors or fumes in the wastewater facilities that may cause a public nuisance, hazard to life or cause acute health and safety problems for workers.

*Title 11.1 Pretreatment Program City of Bismarck Code of Ordinances*

**You are receiving this brochure because the drains (floor drains, sinks, and toilets) inside your building discharge to the sanitary sewer directly into those sewer mains. You or your tenants may be unintentionally causing hazardous materials to enter the sanitary sewer.**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are activities that support pollution prevention. The BMPs prescribed in this document will help automotive repair shops discharge less pollution to the sewers and the environment. They will also help auto repair shops meet local regulations and improve their operations. Automotive repair shops may even save money by using the pollution prevention activities!

We appreciate your attention to this matter.



INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF BISMARCK  
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Bismarck, ND 58506

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[www.bismarcknd.org](http://www.bismarcknd.org)



**BEST MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES  
FOR AUTO REPAIR SHOPS**





## WHAT ARE BMPs?

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are activities that support pollution prevention. The prescribed BMPs will help automotive repair shops discharge less pollution to the sewers and the environment. They will also help auto repair shops meet local regulations and improve their operations. Automotive repair shops may even save money by using the pollution prevention activities listed in this brochure!

### **BMP #1** **EMPLOYEE EDUCATION**

- Be sure that all employees are trained to follow Best Management Practices.
- Be sure that all employees understand spill response (BMP #2) and are trained what to do in case of a spill.
- Post signs by collection containers for proper disposal.

### **BMP #2** **SPILL HANDLING**

- Have emergency phone numbers posted in areas where spills may occur.
- Phone numbers to list include environmental clean-up services such as OSI or Veolia, your facility manager, and the Bismarck Wastewater Utility if the spill is large enough to reach the sewer system (701-355-1700).
- For flammable spills, call 911.
- Small spills may be cleaned up with rags, absorbents such as Oil-Dri® or a squeegee and an oil absorbing mop. Be sure to dispose of the oily waste properly.

### **BMP #3** **OIL/WATER SEPARATORS**

- Does your facility have an oil/water separator? If you know that your facility has one, it should be inspected and pumped out when needed.
- Separators are normally located in the sewer line somewhere outside of the building. There will be an access cover for inspection and pumping.
- Separators that have not been maintained or cleaned can block sewage discharge from your facility or cause backups in the sewer system.

### **BMP #4** **FLOOR DRAINS**

- Floor drains or catch basins are found inside the shop. They are used to collect liquids that drain or spill on the repair shop floor before going into the sewer system. The oil will float on top.
- Check the catch basins regularly to make sure they aren't blocked or filled with oil.
- You can get them pumped and cleaned when needed.

### **BMP #5** **USED OIL**

- Use drip pans or trays to collect spilled oil under oil drums or oil tanks.
- Use drip pans or oil mats under leaking cars, and under oily removed parts.
- Used oil should be stored in a sealed tank used only for used oil. Do not add other waste products.
- Collect used oil for recycling.
- Proper disposal of used oil is the law in North Dakota.

### **BMP #6** **USED OIL FILTERS (TRANSMISSION & FUEL)**

- Puncture and drain used oil filters into a container for 12 -24 hours before storing.
- Put the drained oil from the filters into the used oil storage container.
- Place used filters in a labeled container and dispose through a licensed contractor.
- Proper disposal of used automobile oil filters is the law in North Dakota.
- Properly dispose transmission fluid and fuel filters separately.

### **BMP #7** **PARTS WASHERS**

- Whenever possible, clean parts by hand, using a wire brush for example, instead of using chemicals.
- Perform all parts washing at a central location to reduce drips and spills. This will keep solvents and residues in one area.
- When not in use, cover solvent cleaning tanks and close the drain plugs.

### **BMP #8** **FLOOR CLEANING**

- Sweep instead of mopping when possible.
- Use Oil-Dri® or a similar oil absorbing material before sweeping.

### **BMP #9** **VEHICLE WASHING**

- Wastewater from vehicle washing should go through an oil/water separator, never to storm drains (the open grates along the street) or the surrounding landscape.