

Environmental Audit

Another approach to pollution prevention at commercial sites is to focus on source reduction, which reduces the amount of waste materials that have the potential to contaminate runoff. A reduction assessment can be performed to evaluate the type and amount of materials currently used, processes conducted, and wastes generated. Such an assessment can provide recommendations for modifying the commercial process to generate less waste, using alternative raw materials to generate non-hazardous wastes, and identifying recycling options to reduce the amount of wastes that require disposal. EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/pollutionprevention/>) offers technical information and assistance about environmental audits for businesses.

For more information contact:
Stormwater Program
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City of Cañon City
Engineering Dept.



Stormwater Management Program News

**COMMERCIAL
EDITION**

STORMWATER HOTLINE

276-5265

CALL THIS NUMBER TO REPORT AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE!

City Ordinance Prohibits Illicit Discharges

Illicit Discharge is defined as any direct or indirect discharge, other than stormwater, into the City's Storm Sewer System, including gutters, and irrigation ditches!

City Ordinance provides enforcement and civil penalties of up to

\$250 per violation per day!

Contaminates From Commercial Land Use Twice as Concentrated

Runoff from commercial land uses, such as shopping centers, office parks, and parking lots can contain hydrocarbon and metal concentrations twice those found in the average urban area. Gas stations are designated as a commercial land use and are subject to the same controls as shopping centers and office parks. However, gas stations may generate even higher concentrations of heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and other automobile-related pollutants. It is important when washing and maintaining equipment to adhere to certain pollution prevention measures. The flow of water resulting from cleaning industrial and/or automotive equipment, must be discharged as polluted wastewater to the sanitary sewer and **IS NOT** allowed in storm drains. When cleaning greasy equipment or trucks, a special cleaning area should be designated and equipment installed to capture, pre-treat, and discharge the wash water to the sanitary sewer. If performing work outdoors, all oil and grease should be captured unless precautions are taken to prevent them from being carried in runoff, such as with the use of absorbent pads in inlets.

THE CITY OF CAÑON CITY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER

Develop A Spill Prevention, Control, and Clean-up Plan

The solvents, oils, and paints used in automotive garages and service centers can become major storm water pollutants if handled improperly. The best way to avoid runoff contamination from spilled materials is to prevent the spill from occurring. Careful storage of materials in sound, clearly labeled containers, and regular inspection and maintenance of equipment, are key practices to prevent spills. Materials stored outdoors should be covered and kept on a paved area to protect them from being mobilized by wind and runoff. If

BECAUSE THEY ACT AS A REPOSITORY FOR POLLUTANTS ASSOCIATED WITH AUTOMOBILES, INCLUDING TRACE METALS, VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS AND HYDROCARBONS, PARKING AREAS ARE ONE OF THE MOST DAMAGING LAND USES IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE

not roofed, the storage area should be designed to drain with a slight slope (approximately 1.5 percent) to an area that will provide treatment prior to disposal.

Runoff from other areas should be controlled to reduce the volume of runoff requiring treatment by installing berms, curbs, or diversions on the perimeter of the storage area. Secondary containment should be used when liquids are stored, and runoff or spills from the containment area should be directed to the sanitary sewer where permissible or to an appropriate storage or treatment facility for reuse or disposal.

Business managers should develop and post a set of well-defined procedures for handling spills of any materials that might be exposed to rainfall or runoff. Procedures should cover small spills as well as large spills that require employees to contact emergency personnel. The procedures should emphasize that spills must be cleaned up promptly and should specify how each type of material should be handled. The use of water for clean-up should be strongly discouraged. Shop rags should be used for small spills of non-volatile chemicals, and used rags should be sent to a professional cleaning service to prevent them from causing a pollution problem in a landfill or other disposal area. Larger spills should be absorbed with vermiculite, sawdust, kitty litter, or absorbent “snakes.” Disposal methods depend on the hazard level of the spilled material. Nonvolatile liquids can be cleaned up with a wet/dry shop vacuum and disposed of with the rest of the facility’s waste. Drains or inlets to storm sewers should be plugged during spill remediation to prevent off-site export of pollutants.