

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

For Automotive Shop Fluids



What are shop fluids?

The most commonly used automotive shop fluids include antifreeze, motor oil, brake fluid, and degreaser products. These fluids are delivered to the automotive shop as new, unused product in bottles, buckets, or bulk. Then as needed, vehicles are repaired and the old fluids collected and containerized for off-site disposal. Additionally, wash water generated from service bay floor cleaning can be classified as a shop fluid. It's critically important that the handling of these used or waste fluids be done correctly to reduce the chance of spills and reduce the potential for spending more on disposal than you have to.

Best Management Practices

Antifreeze:

- NEVER allow this liquid to enter a floor drain and NEVER mix with any other substance.
- Do not use buckets, cans, or other open-top, unsecured containers for used antifreeze storage.
- Label stored antifreeze containers "WASTE ANTIFREEZE FOR RECYCLING."
- Use secondary containment for waste antifreeze containers.
- Inspect storage containers and tanks frequently for signs of corrosion, leakage or spills.
- If used antifreeze is spilled, immediately collect by use of dry absorbent or other suitable material and place used absorbent (broom and shovel) into a labeled, sealed, waterproof container for transport (under manifest) to an off-site recycling facility.
- Recycle through a licensed recycling vendor.
- Retain copies of used antifreeze shipping documents (Bill of Lading or Waste Manifest).

Motor Oil:

- NEVER allow used or new motor oil to enter a floor drain and NEVER mix with any other substance.
- Store used motor oil, separate from other chemicals in approved (typically "fire-rated" steel) above ground storage tanks (ASTs). Do not use buckets, cans, or other open-top, unsecured containers for used oil storage.
- Label stored used oil as "USED OIL FOR RECYCLING."
- Keep lids closed on used oil containers to prevent accidental mixing and vent indoor tanks out of the building.
- Ensure that all used oil storage containers and tanks have secondary containment.
- Inspect used oil storage containers and tanks frequently for signs of corrosion, leakage or spills.
- If used oil is spilled, immediately collect by use of dry absorbent or other suitable material and place used absorbent (broom and shovel) into a labeled, sealed, waterproof container for transport (under manifest) to an off-site recycling facility.
- Recycle used oil through a licensed used oil recycling vendor.
- Do not transport more than 55-gallons of used oil off-site at once or federal transportation regulations will be triggered.
- Retain copies of used oil shipping documents (Bill of Lading or Non-Hazardous Waste Manifest).

For Automotive Shop Fluids (continued)

Solvent/Degreasers:

Spent solvents and sludge from parts washers and brake cleaners are potentially hazardous.

- NEVER allow solvents to enter a floor drain.
- Consider using non-chlorinated, low volatility organic solvents with flash points greater than 140F.
- Do not mix solvents with other chemicals or waste.
- Keep drums and solvent containers labeled “SPENT SOLVENT” in secondary containment.
- Brush or wipe dirty parts before placing them in the unit to remove large solids and grime.
- Degreaser solvents contained within portable and non-portable units will be recycled/filtered onsite until they are considered “fully spent” and properly disposed of off-site by a licensed waste hauler/handler.
- Inspect parts cleaners (and floor around them) and solvent storage vessels regularly for cracks, breaks, and content leakage.
- Do not allow any quantity of solvent liquids to accumulate on the floor surface.
- Spent solvents with a flash point less than 140F or listed on one of the RCRA waste lists should be disposed of as hazardous waste and properly labeled.
- Recycle through a licensed recycling vendor.
- Retain copies of spent solvent shipping documents (Bill of Lading or Waste Manifest).

Service Bay Floor Wash Water:

Chemical residues can be a significant source of contamination in service bay floor wash water. It should be handled as industrial waste water.

- Direct floor wash water to the industrial wastewater system (oil/water separator) or divert to a holding tank for disposal.
- Do not direct wash water out of the service bay onto the ground or outdoor pavement.
- Use eco-friendly detergents for service bay floor cleaning.

Spills:

- Always use drip pans for service operations.
- Keep fully-stocked spill kits (with booms, socks, and absorbent) in areas where chemicals are stored.
- Use a dry method (absorbents) to clean up spills.
- Store used absorbents in designated, labeled containers with lids.
- Properly dispose of the used absorbents by recycling with vendors.
- Do not clean up spills by rinsing with a hose into wastewater or storm water drains.
- Do not dispose of contaminated soil in the dumpster or contaminated water down a drain.