

SPILL RESPONSE / HAZARDOUS DISCHARGES

City of Torrance Fire Department
Hazardous Materials Division
Dispatch (310) 781-7042

TO CONNECT TO THE STORM DRAIN

It is illegal to connect to the storm drain without a permit. To obtain a storm drain connection permit, contact the City of Torrance Community Development Department at (310) 618-5898
Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm

TO CONNECT TO THE COUNTY SEWER

Los Angeles County Sanitation District
(562) 699-7411 Ext. 2727

RECYCLING AND HAZARDOUS WASTE INFORMATION

Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works,
Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
1-888-CleanLA (1-888-253-2652) or log onto
www.888CleanLA.com

For more information on recycling and waste management, visit: www.RecycleTorrance.org

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping of trash, paint products, motor oil and other chemicals into storm drains is against the law!

To report illegal discharges or dumping to the storm drain system anywhere in Los Angeles County at any time, call:
1-888-CleanLA (1-888-253-2652)

TO REPORT A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN OR INLET

City of Torrance
Public Works Department
Mon-Thurs 7am-5pm
(310) 781-6900

To report a clogged storm drain inlet or catch basin anywhere in Los Angeles County at anytime, call:
Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works
1-800-675-HELP or (626) 458-4357

This brochure is one of a series of brochures describing storm drain protection measures.

Other brochures include:
FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY

FRESH CONCRETE & MORTAR APPLICATION

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING

HEAVY EQUIPMENT & EARTH-MOVING ACTIVITIES

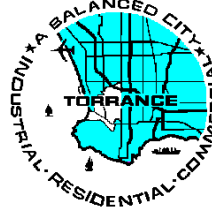
LANDSCAPING GARDENING & PEST CONTROL

PAINTING

ROADWORK & PAVING

SPA & SWIMMING POOL OWNERS

For more information about storm drain protection or additional brochures, call the



**CITY OF TORRANCE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT
(310) 618-5990**

www.888CleanLA.com

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Printed on recycled paper.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Automotive Maintenance & Car Care



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Safe Environment Practices and Procedures for:

Gas Stations
Auto Repair Shops
Auto Body Shops
Car Dealerships
Mobile Fleet Managers

Stormwater Pollution – It's Up to Us

The City of Torrance has two drainage systems - the sewers and the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets out to the ocean.

During storms in urban areas, rainwater may mix with pollutants in industrial and household runoff, creating storm water pollution.

Most runoff from the streets of Torrance discharges directly to the Pacific Ocean via the storm drain system. The pollutants include: oil from vehicle fluids leaked on parking lots and other automotive fluids, trash from improper waste disposal, construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Look for curbside catch basins and other storm drain inlets in and near the workplace. These should be labeled with stencils that say "NO DUMPING: DRAINS TO OCEAN". All of us need to make sure that only clean storm drain water runoff is allowed to enter these inlets.



Auto Maintenance Problems

Many common car maintenance routines contribute to ocean pollution.

Practices such as: washing car and letting wash water flow into the street or pouring used motor oil into a gutter or storm drain can pollute the ocean.



Water runoff from streets, parking lots and driveways, picks up oil and grease dripped from cars, asbestos worn from brake linings, zinc from tires and organic compounds and metals from spilled fuels. Through this runoff, these chemicals drain into the ocean harming aquatic life.

Oil & Water
Oil and grease, for example, clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. If oxygen levels in the water become too low, aquatic animals die.

Please Don't Mix!

SOLUTIONS

Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering the ocean through the storm drain system.

Cleaning Work Sites

- **Avoid hosing down your garage driveway or shop floor.** It is best to sweep regularly.
- Use non-toxic cleaning products: baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps and chrome; mix the soda with a mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to clean wheels and tires; for windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water.



Spills

- Maintain a clean and dry facility area.
- Avoid accidental spills by using drip pans and funnels when draining or pouring fluids.
 - Prepare and use easy to find spill containment and cleaning kits.
 - If a spill occurs, pour kitty litter, sawdust or other absorbent on the spill and place waste materials in covered waste containers.



Leak Control

Regular vehicle maintenance is not only good for business, it also prevents fluids from leaking onto streets and washing into storm drains.

- Change fluids carefully. Use a drip pan to avoid spills.
- Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles.
- Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills.
- Use a funnel when pouring liquids (like lubricants or motor oil) and place a tray underneath to catch spills.
- Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers.

Employee & Customer Education

Train employees on storm water pollution prevention practices annually.

Educate your customers and raise their awareness about proper washing, recycling and disposal procedures.



Vehicle Fueling

- Prohibit wash down of the facility to areas near the storm drain.
- Post signs instructing people not to overfill or "top off" gas tanks, install automatic shutoff fuel dispensing nozzles.
- Routinely sweep fuel-dispensing areas for removal of litter and debris.
- Keep rags and absorbents ready for use in case of leaks/spills.
- Routinely check outdoor waste receptacle and air/water supply areas, clean leaks and drips, and ensure that only watertight waste receptacles are used and that lids are closed.

Vehicle Washing

- If possible, take vehicles to a washing facility to prevent oil, grease, suspended solids and toxics from washing into storm drains.
- Designate a washing site where water drains to the sewer system (industrial waste permit may be required).
- Use phosphate-free biodegradable detergents.
- Wash areas must be paved and well marked as wash areas.
- Train all employees to use the designated area.
- Contain and recycle washwaters. Whenever possible, wash vehicles near a clarifier or floor sump.



Recycling

You must recycle, it is the law:

Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code requires motor oil recycling. Section 66822 of the California Code requires lead acid battery recycling.

There are recycling programs for:

- Used tires
- Oil Filters
- Antifreeze
- Cleaning solutions
- Water-based paints
- Hydraulic and transmission fluids
- Metal scraps
- Paper and cardboard
- Container glass, aluminum, and tin

