



Stormwater Management

for Radiator Repair Premises

EPA 501/03

Why do radiator repair premises need this information?

These guidelines for radiator repairers provide information to increase your stormwater management awareness and strengthen your knowledge. They will help you to manage potential stormwater pollution prevention problems at your workshop.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that flows across outside surfaces into stormwater drains and gutters in the street. The water is not treated and flows directly to our creeks, rivers, groundwaters and oceans. Stormwater should only contain clean rainwater, and *no* pollutants such as general rubbish, industrial waste, heavy metals, coolants, oils and greases.

Benefits for you and your business

By addressing potential stormwater pollution problems at your workplace, you:

- minimise your potential for environmental fines and prosecutions
- demonstrate compliance with the Environment Protection Authority's codes of practice
- improve your businesses profile
- make long-term cost savings by increasing efficiency and reducing costs
- increase customer patronage
- improve environmental conditions for all employees.

All owners and operators should ensure they know their legal obligations regarding water, air and noise pollution, and about handling their waste and hazardous materials; telephone the Environment Protection Authority on 8204 2004.

What legislation governs stormwater pollution?

The stormwater system is protected by a number of different laws including the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* (the Water Quality Policy), the *Local Government Act 1934*, the *Development Act 1993* and the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*.

The new Water Quality Policy offers the most specific protection for the State's waters. It prohibits the pollution of the stormwater system and our natural waters. The Policy has general obligations

which every person, business and industry must comply with as well as specific obligations for particular activities. Failure to comply with any of these obligations may result in the issuing of a \$300 fine, Environment Protection Order, and/or prosecution.

Clause 17 of the Water Quality Policy states that a person must not discharge or deposit a pollutant listed in Schedule 4 of the Policy into any waters or onto land where it might enter any waters. The pollutants listed in Schedule 4 which relate to radiator repairers include engine coolant, fuel dispensing area washwater, hard waste (e.g. vehicles, tyres, batteries, metal parts, piping), motor vehicle servicing or repair waste, oil, grease, lubricants, petroleum products, rubbish, and solvents.

For more information on the Water Quality Policy visit the EPA web site at www.epa.sa.gov.au, or telephone (08) 8204 2004.

What can you do to stop stormwater pollution?

The first step is to ensure that stormwater does not get contaminated. Think about all your work practices and ensure that none lead to contamination of water that runs out into stormwater drains. Inspect the uncovered areas of your workplace: when it rains, will the rainwater become contaminated before it gets to the stormwater drain?

Radiator repairers drain, clean, repair and test industrial and automotive radiators. Coolants and wastewater from radiator repair operations contain contaminants that can exceed SA Water's acceptance criteria for liquid waste to the sewer. These contaminants must not be discharged to the stormwater system.

Requirements

- Only wastewater complying with SA Water's acceptance criteria can be discharged to the sewer.
- If contaminants in wastewater exceed SA Water's acceptance criteria, one of the following options shall be used (subject to approval by SA Water Trade Wastes section):

Option 1

- Isolate the area from sewer and subsequently remove wastewater.
- Contain all wastewater and coolants before they are removed by a licensed waste contractor.
- Seal or otherwise secure all floor drains and other non-domestic outlets to prevent discharge of wastewater or coolants to sewer or stormwater system.

Option 2

- Discharge wastewater through an approved pre-treatment system, which may include a coalescing plate separator and metal precipitation/pH adjustment, before it is discharged to the sewer.

Option 3

- Discharge wastewater through an approved pre-treatment system, which may include a coalescing plate separator, metal precipitation/pH adjustment and a suitable sized settling chamber, before continuous discharge to the sewer.

Water use

Water is one of our most valuable natural resources. Water supply organisations in South Australia have begun to implement a 'user pays' system to promote water conservation and to better reflect the true cost of water collection, storage and supply services.

Radiator repairers can save money and have a positive impact on the environment by implementing a water efficiency program, starting with a water audit which will determine how much water your

business uses, where there are water leaks, and what systems and equipment could be put in place to reduce your water use.

For information on water restrictions visit the SA Water web site (www.sawater.com.au), or telephone 1800 130 952.

The information in this document is from a series of fact sheets developed by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Projects. Visit www.catchments.net/initiatives/initiatives_stormwater.shtml for more information on stormwater issues.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Legislation

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: www.parliament.sa.gov.au/dbsearch/legsearch.htm

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Government Information Centre

Telephone:

13 23 24

Internet:

www.info.sa.gov.au

For general information please contact:

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607

Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone:

(08) 8204 2004

Facsimile:

(08) 8204 9393

Freecall (country):

1800 623 445

Internet:

www.epa.sa.gov.au