



Stormwater Management

for Mobile Mechanics

EPA 545/04—April 2004

Why do I need this information?

This information for owners, managers and staff of mobile mechanical repair businesses aims to help you identify and manage potential stormwater pollution problems at your work sites.

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* requires that you undertake activities in a way that ensures stormwater is protected from pollutants such as grease, oils, lubricants and petroleum products.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that flows over outside surfaces into gutters and stormwater drains in the street. Unlike the sewerage system wastewater, this water is not treated and flows directly to our creeks, rivers, groundwaters and oceans. Stormwater should only contain clean water and *no* pollutants.

Benefits for you and your business

By addressing potential stormwater pollution problems at your workplace you:

- minimise the risk of environmental fines and prosecutions
- demonstrate compliance with the Environmental Protection Authority's code of practice
- improve your business profile
- make long-term financial savings by reducing costs and improving efficiency.
- increase customer satisfaction and patronage
- improve environmental conditions for everyone.

What legislation governs stormwater pollution?

The stormwater system is protected by a number of different laws including the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (the Act), 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 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 Water Quality Policy has general obligations with which every person, business and industry must comply, as well as specific obligations for particular activities. Failure to comply with any of these obligations may result in 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 that relate to mobile mechanic operations include:

- engine coolant
- motor vehicle servicing or repairs waste
- oil, grease or lubricants
- petroleum products.

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

Identifying potential pollution problems

Mobile mechanics may work in several locations throughout the day. Jobs may occur on people's driveways, in car parks, or on the side of the road. There is a high risk of pollutants being deposited on surfaces and mixing with rainwater, then being transported to the stormwater system. Therefore, it is important that all wastes are collected and removed for proper disposal, and that any repairs that should be undertaken in a controlled area, such as engine reconditioning or engine bay cleaning, are conducted in a fully serviced workshop.

Solid and liquid wastes produced by mobile mechanical repair activities may include:

- radiator coolant and coolant flush wastewater
- grease, oil and wastewater from engine degreasing
- metal or rubber parts and objects
- engine oil and lubricants.

Check to make sure your work site activities meet the same regulations and environmental obligations as a fixed mechanical workshop. Are you containing and removing all wastes to ensure they can't contaminate stormwater?

What can mechanical repairers do to prevent stormwater pollution?

- At the time of service, remove all liquid wastes and contaminated parts off site for approved disposal by a licensed contractor. This includes used engine oil, radiator coolant, brake fluid, batteries and oil filters.
- Place a spill mat or drip tray under the vehicle to capture leaks and spills of oil and other chemicals. To further minimise the risk of stormwater pollution, ensure that your spill mat is banded (has pop-up edges).
- Keep a portable spill kit in the vehicle at all times that is suitable to clean up the largest possible spill. The kit should contain absorbent material (for example, sand or kitty litter) to soak up spilt oil and other liquids. Place spent absorbent material in a bag and dispose of it correctly to a licensed landfill or place it in the garbage bin. The kit should also contain bunds, absorbent pillows and sausages to soak up and divert spills.
- Use spill proof oil trays and fluid containers so that, if you drop or knock the tray or container, the oil or liquid cannot be spilled.
- Ensure your employees are aware of emergency spill procedures.

- Wash vehicle exteriors only on grassed areas or on a bunded spill mat and discharge wash water to the sewer (in accordance with SA Water Trade Wastes requirements; for details call 8207 1350, fax 8207 1361). If disposal to the sewer is not practicable or permitted by SA Water, then store the wastewater on site in a sealed container and then take it to a licensed disposal treatment or storage facility.
- Ensure that the main base from which the mobile service operates has suitable containment facilities to manage returned liquid and solid wastes.
- Capture wastewater from degreasing engines or greasy hands and equipment, and direct it towards an oil separation system before disposing to the sewer in accordance with SA Water Trade Waste requirements.
- Drain oil filters and dispose of them via a filter recycler. Never put oil filters in a domestic garbage bin.
- Keep your mobile unit clean and tidy to reduce the risk of a spill or accident. Ensure all liquids are stowed securely.

The information contained 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
Lands Titles Office, 101 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
Internet: shop.service.sa.gov.au

For general information please contact:

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001
E-mail: epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Facsimile: (08) 8204 9393
Freecall (country): 1800 623 445
Internet: www.epa.sa.gov.au