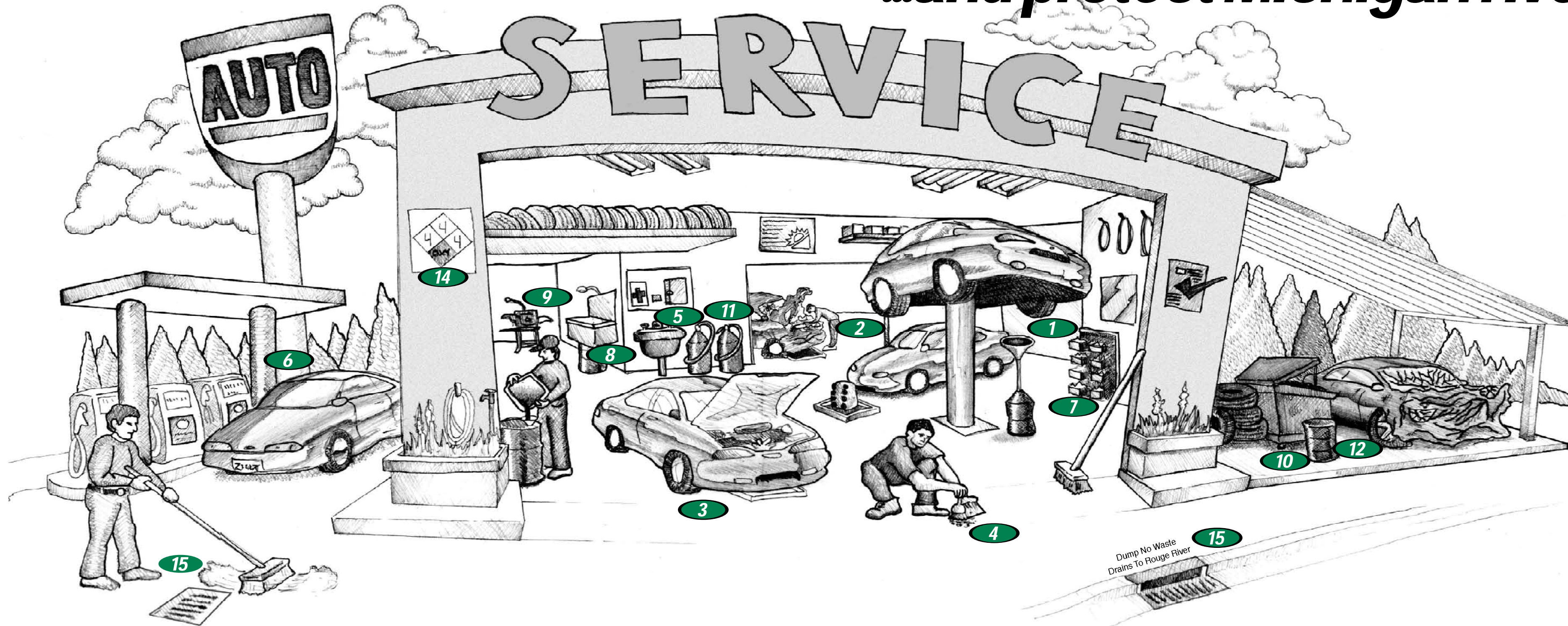


Keep Your Shop In Tune

...and protect Michigan rivers!



If your shop is tuned up and running smoothly, you will help protect the area rivers and help your community comply with Clean Water Act requirements by keeping pollutants such as heavy metals, antifreeze and oily wastes out of storm drains and sanitary sewers. Keep in mind these general principles:

Run a dry shop.

Minimizing the liquids you discharge will help you comply with the requirements. Cut down on the liquids you create by cleaning up spills immediately and by using dry clean up practices instead of a mop or hose. Cover outdoor work and storage areas to prevent rain water from washing over them.

Be a zero discharger.

Prevent discharges to the sanitary sewer and avoid need to permit or monitor sewer connections. Seal off floor drains and use enclosed parts cleaners to eliminate wastewater use.

"Close the loop."

Keep pollutants out of the storm drains and sanitary sewers by using recyclers. Avoid creating and handling waste by recycling liquids such as motor oil, antifreeze and certain types of brake and transmission fluid. Send shop rags to a laundry service that can handle the waste liquids.

1. Changing Automotive Fluids

- Designate an area away from storm or sanitary drains to change automotive fluids.
- Collect, separate and recycle motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid and gear oil.
- Drain brake fluid and other non-recyclables into a container and handle as a hazardous waste.
- Use a radiator flushing fluid that can be recycled and add it to the waste antifreeze.

2. Working on Transmissions, Engines, and Miscellaneous Repairs

- Keep a drip pan or a wide low-rimmed container under vehicles to catch fluids whenever you unclip hoses, unscrew filters or change other parts and at other times to contain unexpected potential leaks.

3. Preventing Leaks and Spills

- Avoid spills by emptying and wiping drip pans when you move them to another vehicle or when they are half-full.
- Routinely check equipment to wipe up spills and repair leaks.
- Place large pans or an inflatable portable berm under wrecked cars.
- Drain all fluids from wrecked vehicles or "parts" cars you keep on site.

4. Cleaning Up Spills

- Clean up small spills immediately with a cloth rag rather than paper towels.
- Keep dry absorbent materials or a wet/dry vacuum cleaner on hand for mid-sized spills.
- Contain large spills immediately; shut off floor or parking lot drains and notify the authorities.
- Train employees to be familiar with hazardous spill response plans and emergency procedures.

5. Identify and Control Wastewater Discharges

- Ensure that shop sinks and floor drains are connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Post signs to prevent disposal of liquid wastes into sanitary drains.
- Seal floor drains and be a zero discharger.

6. Fueling Vehicles

- Clean up minor spills with a dry absorbent rather than allowing them to evaporate. Dispose the absorbent as a dry hazardous waste.
- Use a damp cloth and a damp mop to keep the area clean rather than a hose or a wet mop.
- Grade fuel and approach area to prevent rain water from running over site.

7. Removing and Storing Batteries

- Store batteries indoors on an open rack.
- Return used batteries to a battery vendor. Contain cracked batteries to prevent hazardous spills.

8. Cleaning Parts

- Clean parts in a self-contained unit, solvent sink or parts washer to prevent solvents and grease from entering a sewer or storm drain connection.
- Use non-halogenated or less toxic solvents where possible.

9. Metal Grinding and Finishing

- Catch metal filings in an enclosed unit or on a tarpaulin.
- Sweep or vacuum filing area to prevent washing metals into floor drains.

10. Storing and Disposing of Waste

- Store recyclable and non-recyclable waste separately.
- Place liquid waste-hazardous or otherwise-within a berm or secondary containment.
- Cover outdoor storage areas to prevent contact with rain water. Collect used parts for delivery to a scrap metal dealer.
- Dispose of scrap tires to a registered collection site.

11. Selecting and Controlling Inventory

- Purchase recyclable or non-toxic materials.
- Where possible select suppliers who provide fresh materials and accept used materials for recycling.
- Monitor products in underground storage tanks.

12. Outdoor Parking and Auto Maintenance

- Berm outdoor parking areas and park cars on a sealed concrete surface rather than asphalt.
- Treat outdoor areas as an extension of your service bays or avoid using altogether.
- Drain work areas to a sanitary drain rather than a storm drain.

13. Vehicle Washing, Engine Cleaning and Automotive Steam Cleaning

- Commercial car washes must collect and treat water discharge under permit to the sanitary sewer.
- For occasional car exterior cleaning, minimize the water used and prevent it from running across a parking lot before it enters a storm drain.
- Clean engines, wash dirty and greasy equipment, or steam clean cars only if your shop has approved wastewater collection and treatment equipment.

14. Training and Educating Employees and Customers

- Display this poster and make sure your employees know these management practices.
- Encourage your customers to be waste conscious by posting signs at gas pumps or stencils on storm drains.

15. Storm Drains

- Never pour any wastes down a storm drain. Clean up spills immediately to prevent them from washing into a storm drain.
- Store chemical products and waste under cover from storm water. For additional information contact Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 1-800-662-9278



Adapted from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

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