

Washing Vehicles

- Prevent oil and grease, suspended solids and toxins from washing into storm drains.
- Wash vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent. Use a bucket (not a running hose) to wash and rinse vehicles. This conserves water and minimizes urban runoff.
- Design fueling areas so that all spills are contained.
- Cover the fueling area to keep rain from washing away spilled fluids.
- Keep absorbent materials on-site.
- Post signs instructing people not to overfill gas tanks.

Employee & Customer Education

Please provide water quality training annually to your customers and employees. Providing education to others will help the City of Elko keep pollution out of storm drains.

Spill Response Agencies

Elko City Dispatch 775-777-7300

Report Illegal Dumping

Elko City Dispatch 775-777-7300

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

Elko Solid Waste Facility 775-777-7395

Report a Clogged Stormwater Drain

Elko Public Works - Street Dept. 775-777-7230



CLEAN
Water is
Accomplished by
Team Work
Education and
Responsibility

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

Other brochures include:

Construction Industry Care

Tourism and Food Service Industry

Home Repair, Landscaping and Painting

For more information about storm water pollution contact

*City of Elko Engineering Department
775-777-7210*



*The information is provided through a grant from the
USDA; Natural Resource Conservation Service.*

Automotive Maintenance & Car Care

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Auto Body Shops
Auto Repair Shops



Car Dealerships
Gas Stations
Car Washes



Mobile Fleet Managers
Mobile Fleet Washing



Stormwater Pollution

Prevention - Help Your Community Stay Clean

The City of Elko 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 to the Humboldt River.

Sewer systems flow to the Water Reclamation Facility where it is treated. The storm drains flow directly to local creeks and the Humboldt River without treatment. Common sources of stormwater pollution are oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles. Additional sources of water pollutants are heavy equipment, construction debris, sediments, and landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers. Other materials include motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

Stormwater pollution contaminates the Humboldt River, harming livestock and wildlife, including fish, waterfowl, and other animals. It also increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

An average rainstorm can cause several million gallons or more of polluted urban runoff to flow into the Humboldt River untreated. Even on a clear day, up to a hundred thousand gallons or more of concentrated polluted water may flow to the river, caused by careless use of domestic water.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure a cleaner river, contribute to a more attractive city, as well as help to conserve water.



General Maintenance Problems

Many common car maintenance routines may contribute to our water and stream pollution. Washing the car, pouring used motor oil or antifreeze into the gutter or storm drain pollutes the Humboldt River.

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. The chemicals drain into the Humboldt River and are harmful to wildlife, waterfowl and plants. Oil and grease, for example, can clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. If oxygen levels in the water become too low, aquatic animals may die.

Pollution Solutions

Do not hose down your shop floor, parking lot, or driveways. It is best to sweep regularly.

Use non-toxic cleaning products. Baking soda works well on battery leads, cable clamps and chrome. Mix soda with mild, biodegradable dish washing soap to clean wheels and tires. For windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water.

Cleaning Up Spills



Clean up spills utilizing the proper absorbent. Dispose of absorbent properly.

Petroleum spills (diesel, gasoline, hydraulic oil, etc.) to the environment of 25 gallons or more must be reported to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection; Bureau of Corrective Actions at 775-687-9368 during normal business hours (8:00 am - 5:00 pm PST)

Fluids

Change fluids carefully. Use a drip pan to avoid spills.

Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as unused gas, transmission, and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid.

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.

The City of Elko wishes to thank you for helping preserve the environment by observing sound environmental practices and properly disposing of residual wastes.

Thank You

