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PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND PRAIRIE, TX
PERMIT NO. 34

GRAND PRAIRIE
Auto Related Business Program
206 W. Church Street
PO Box 534045
Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045

To have stray animals picked up contact **Grand Prairie Animal Services**
Phone: 972.237.8575

Prevent Pollution in Your Shop

1. **Reducing waste** means saving money and creating a healthy work environment.
2. **Berm** areas where spills can happen.
3. **Sweep shop floors** and cut down on the amount of water used to mop. Never dump dirty or soapy mop water down storm drains, gutters, streets, or anywhere outside.
4. **Park vehicles** awaiting repairs inside the shop. Use drip pans underneath vehicles to catch leaking fluids.
5. **Use absorbents** to clean up spilled oil on the floor immediately after the spill occurs. Once absorbed, treat the used absorbent like used oil and place in a covered container labeled "USED ABSORBENT." Call a registered waste oil hauler to pick it up.
6. **Cover** all floor drains.
7. **Use absorbent** or kitty litter to clean your parking lot instead of a pressure washer.
8. **Pick up** all litter, trash, or debris outside your facility daily and keep lids on all trash receptacles.
9. **Send all dirty rags** to a laundry service. Never wash oily rags at your home or anywhere without an approved sand/grit trap or oil/water separator.
10. **Have a spill** response plan and keep spill cleanup materials nearby.

Need training? Contact the City of Grand Prairie **Auto Related Business team** at **(972) 237-8055** to schedule a training session for your employees.

Texas Environmental Enforcement

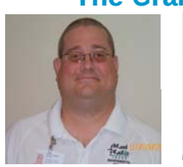
A salvage yard operation in Grayson County was fined $700 for failure to have a storm water multi sector permit.

An iron pipe manufacturer in Shackelford County was fined $1,050 for failing to allow employees of the TCEQ to conduct an unrestricted inspection of the facility for the purpose of investigating conditions relating to rules and regulations of the commission.

An industrial wastewater disposal company in Jefferson County was fined $5,000 for not properly labeling used oil, not getting a used oil registration prior to conducting used oil activities, and for the unauthorized discharge of industrial hazardous waste.

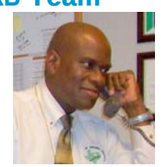
A body shop in Smith County was fined $5,250 for failing to obtain authorization prior to conducting surface coating operations.

The Grand Prairie ARB Team



Andrew Krentz
Env. Specialist

Brent Redd
Env. Specialist



Michael Stanley
Sr. Code Officer

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AutoWatch

The Automotive Related Business (ARB) Program Newsletter

Creating raving fans by delivering world class service

Volume 5 Issue 2 Summer 2011

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The **AUTOWATCH** is a publication of the **Automotive Related Business Program (ARB).** Submit your comments and suggestions to:

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Think you have a CLEAN SHOP? Send a copy of your last inspection report, a current photo and a paragraph stating why you should be selected, to the editor.

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ANGEL REYES

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FLOYD SANCHEZ

THE 2010 CLEAN SHOP AWARDS

Each year the inspection reports from the prior year are reviewed and three shops selected as exemplary examples of Code and Environmental compliance. It is a tough decision, most shops have improved quite a bit. These are the winners for 2010!!

On a large one acre lot on the intersection of Bagdad and Main street sits a new facility that rivals any car lot in Grand Prairie. This is **DARIO Auto Sales**, a family based business whose pride is showing. The family has been in business for fourteen years, and in Grand Prairie three years. Lisbeth says that her desire is to "help my community and the general public. "Creating happiness, maintains happiness!" Angel advised that "Operating a clean business, makes it more attractive to customers and the city. Cleanliness was a major factor in a recent favorable Specific Use Permit application process."

Express Auto Financial leads into the 'old' Main street area of Grand Prairie and creates a great, positive impression. The owner operator has been in business at the current location for 3 and 1/2 years.
Amazingly this is her first experience with auto sales. Previously she was a medical assistant at Children's Hospital. Her business philosophy is that she only gets one chance to make a good first impression, so she wants her business to represent her well. Maria says, " I sell value cars to people I value." Her advise to other entrepreneurs is "If you want people to respect your business, you must respect it first."

GP Engine replaced a central district eyesore. The new operators quickly repainted the entire facility inside and out. They transformed their corner in the process. To highlight their cleanliness they painted the inside shop floor. Floyd states, "Our customers appreciate and have come to expect a clean work area. They have complimented me on the shop area and it makes me proud."
Jose has advice for future shop owners, "Take care of the customers so they will return and provide word of mouth advertising that will take care of you."

ARB Rocks!

Highway 80—Main Street Cruise and Show

The Third Annual Highway 80—Main Street Cruise was held on May 14th in downtown Grand Prairie. With a parade and show of almost 100 vehicles, this was the biggest ARB Spring event yet. This show spotlighted the contribution that the Automotive Related Businesses make to the city and helped to promote Market Square activities.

Corporate sponsors of this event included:
Acker Transportation 802 Oakdale
Century Trucks 1300 E. Main
National Autobody Parts Warehouse 2000 E. Main

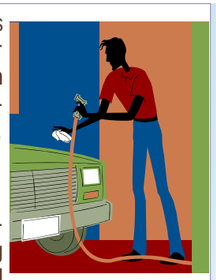
Councilman Tony Shotwell presided over vote counting and awarding of the People's Choice Awards. **Amy Sprinkles** and **Rita Heep**, from Grand Prairie's Departments of Marketing and Development, worked hard to insure that the event was marketed and permitted. **Randy Reagins** of Code Enforcement coordinated volunteers and **Michael Stanley** served as event Chairman .

Highlights of the events included the "Shattered Dreams" exhibit provided by the **GPPD**, a Fire Engine displayed by the **GPFD**, and a salvage yard exhibit courtesy of the **Mike Miller Salvage** group.

At the conclusion of the Farmer's Market activities, a second show was held on the grounds of Century Trucks at 1300 E. Main. Additional prizes as well as music and free food provided by Century were the highlights of what was heralded as the "After-Party."

This year was a blast, but wait until you see us next year!

The Dos and Don'ts of Vehicle Washing



The City of Grand Prairie does not allow vehicle wash water from businesses to enter storm sewers. Storm sewers drain directly into nearby creeks, streams, and lakes.

GREATEST RISKS

- Vehicle washing wastewater can pollute drinking water or streams and lakes and **you** could be held responsible.

BEST FIXES

Indoor Washing:

- If you drain to the *sanitary* sewer system, you must use an approved oil/water separator or sand/grit trap.
- If you are not connected to the City sewer and are using an aerobic or septic system, the discharge of chemicals is prohibited and you must find an alternative location to discharge the chemicals.

Outdoor Washing:

- Outdoor washing is prohibited without an approved washbay.
- Allowing wastewater to go to the *sanitary* sewer through a sand/grit trap must be done at an approved facility. This may be done at a commercial car wash only if there is an agreement with the commercial car wash operator. A copy of the agreement must be available to show City staff.
- Only automotive sales facilities can use plain water without collecting the wastewater. However, NO SOAPS OR DEGREASERS are allowed.

VEHICLE WASHING DOS AND DON'TS

- DO check each vehicle for leaking fluids before washing it. Use drip pans or absorbents (e.g. kitty litter) to collect leaking fluids.
- DO use oil/water separators or sand/grit traps to remove dirt and oils from vehicle washing wastewater.
- DON'T allow washing wastewater to go into water bodies, storm drains, sewer pipes, septic tanks, or onto the ground.

Got Paint?

In Texas, you must have an air authorization to paint automobiles. Certain rules also apply to how you manage your waste. The following information is for small auto body shops.

Why is the state regulating small auto body shops?
The air pollution from your individual shop may be small. However, the overall pollution from all the 6,000 auto body shops all over the state is huge. If you are already operating, you need to follow these rules or apply for an air permit as soon as possible. It is a violation of state law to operate without having a permit or following the rules.

Do I have to have an enclosed paint booth?
If your shop uses two gallons or more of paint and solvents in any week, you must have an enclosed, filtered paint booth or enclosed, filtered spray area.

What can I do to meet the "less than 1/2 pint per hour" limit?
To fit into this smallest category of shop, you must use less than 1/2 pint or less of paint in any one hour of operation. *This category is for shops that only do detail work and small touch-up jobs* to operate without registering. Remember, whether you register or not, you should keep records for at least 2 years.

I think my shop is "Grandfathered." Do I still need to comply?
It does not matter how long you have been in business, everyone needs to follow the rules.

Do I have to keep records?
Yes. Keep records for at least 2 years. When your shop is inspected, you need to be able to show you are following the rules. You should keep the following:

- MSDS sheets
- Solvent and paint purchase records
- Monthly paint and solvent usage
- Amount and type of waste generated.

What if I cannot follow all the requirements?
You may change your practices or equipment to meet the requirements. If this is not practical for your shop, you may apply for an air permit.

What happens if I don't follow these rules or have a permit?
The TCEQ has authority to assess penalties of up to $10,000 for each day you are in violation of Texas rules. If you need help understanding what is required for your shop, contact the TCEQ **Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program at 1-800-447-2827.**