

AUTO WATCH

Winter 2024 Volume 20 / Issue 1



AUTO RELATED BUSINESS

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us on February 29, 2024 for an Auto Related Business Compliance Meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Grand Prairie Main Library, 901 Conover Drive. During this meeting, City Staff will present the 2023 Clean Shop Awards and discuss the Do's and Don'ts of Automotive Businesses. This is also a chance to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. A complimentary breakfast will be provided for all in attendance.

This meeting is FREE to attend and is an opportunity for ARB businesses and City staff to have an open discussion on compliance issues or obstacles they are experiencing. For more information, please contact Christopher Wilson by phone at (972)-237-8059 or by email at cwilson@gptx.org.

Inside this Issue



2023 Clean Shop Winners Contaminated Soil Cleanup Procedures



How to Eliminate Waste and Protect
Human Health and the Environment
Managing Used Scrap Tires



Q4 Storm Drain System: Everything Flows to Our Water Bodies



The goal of the Clean Prairie Companies program is to encourage businesses to participate in beautification efforts at their own business or throughout the community. This is a tiered certification program: Bronze, Silver, or Gold.

Congratulations to the Auto Related Businesses that passed a Clean Shop Inspection and became Bronze Certified as a Clean Prairie Company in 2023. This entails ensuring that the inside and ouside of the shop is clean, orderly, and free from litter.

2023 CLEAN SHOP WINNERS





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CONTAMINATED SOIL CLEANUP PROCEDURES



The discharge of vehicle fluids to the ground is prohibited in Grand Prairie under City ordinance. Due to the serious nature of vehicle fluid contamination, the following procedures must be followed in order for site remediation to be achieved:

- 1. Immediately cease all discharges of liquids or chemicals to the ground.
- 2. Remove all contaminated soil and place into drums with lids. Soil containing oil, antifreeze, and any other vehicle fluids except fuels must be labeled "Used Absorbent". Fuel is considered hazardous waste and should be dealth with accordingly. Fuel spills

should be reported to the Public Health & Environmental Quality Department.

- 3. Contact a registered waste hauler to pick up the drums with contaminted soil. A list of waste haulers can be obtained from the Public Health & Environmental Quality Department.
- 4. A waste manifest must be obtained from the reigstered waste hauler and kept on site for three years. These manifests must be provided upon request from the City of Grand Prairie Environmental Inspectors.

Failure to adequately follow these instructions in response to a vehicle fluid spill may result in the issuance of a daily fine until remediation is initiated. This fine for this type of violation can reach \$2,000 per citation. Please call the Public Health & Environmental Quality Department with any questions or concerns at 972-237-8055.

HOW TO ELIMINATE WASTE AND PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Waste, and how we choose to handle it, affects our health and the environment. The environment includes everything around us including the air, water, land, plants, and human-made objects. The waste we create has to be carefully controlled to ensure it does not harm the environment and our health. Use the 3 Rs to help manage waste responsibly:

Reduce: Simply reduce the amount of materials used so that less waste is generated. Use or purchase only as much as necessary for your tasks at hand.

Reuse: Use things again and again. Buy reusable water bottles and reuse shop cloths or waste containers. Reusing materials enables you to reduce consumption and creates less air and water pollution than making a new item or recycling.



Recycle: You can recycle motor oil, anti-freeze, tires, batteries, and scrap metal in addition to various other materials like aluminum cans, plastic bottles, paper, and cardboard.

Please contact the City of Grand Prairie Public Health & Environmental Quality (972-237-8055) for more information on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste responsibly.

MANAGING USED SCRAP TIRES

According to the U. S. Tire Manufacturers Association, 274 million scrap tires were generated in the United States in 2021 alone. 86 percent of these were either reused or recycled in some ways. These tires aren't considered hazardous waste, but they can pose threats if they are not properly reused or recycled. For example, mosquitoes use them as breeding grounds and stockpiles of tires are a potential fire hazard. Below are a couple of ways to manage used scrap tires:

Method	Description	Usage
Retreading	Replacing the tread on worn tires is a	Retreaded tires are 40% cheaper than new tires and
	good way to recycle old tires. Old tires	are as safe as new tires.
	can be revamped to be functional again	
Tire Pickup	Assigning a state registered waste tire	Rubber recycling facilities break down scrap tires
	hauler to pick up tires and transport	into different sized pieces which can be used
	them to rubber recycling facilities.	in landscaping mulch, rubber mats, and rubber-
		modified asphalt.

All facilities that generate, transport, or retail used or scrap tires must have waste tire generator identification from the state environmental regulatory authority. Any tires or tire parts without rims should not be stored outside where they could be exposed to rain, irrigation, or any other source of water.

For more information, visit https://www.tceq.texas.gov/tires/tires

CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE

Auto Related Business Program 300 West Main Street, 2nd Floor PO Box 534045 Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045 PRESORTED STANDARE US POSTAGE **PAID**

GRAND PRAIRIE, TX

Useful Contacts

Building Inspections (972) 237-8230

Code Compliance (972) 237-8296

Environmental Quality (972) 237-8055

REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

Make Sustainable Choices this New Year by Shopping Local



Find more ways to make clean air choices at airnorthtexas.org

STORM DRAIN SYSTEM: EVERYTHING FLOWS TO OUR WATER BODIES

Did you know that storm inlets discharge directly into our creeks, rivers, and lakes?

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm drain system is NOT connected to a treatment plant, but instead carries stormwater that runs off of yards, parking lots, and streets and then discharges the stormwater directly to creeks, rivers, and lakes. This means that all of the pollutants on the ground – like motor oil, antifreeze, fertilizers, pet waste, trash, etc. – end up in our waterbodies, untreated. Oil or grease released from automotive businesses can clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the

water. Toxins found in gasoline, diesel, antifreeze, lubricants, sealants, as well as high concentrations of car surface protectants, waxes, cleaners, and shop floor cleaners are also harmful to waterways. Not only do wildlife live in our creeks, rivers, and



lakes, but Grand Prairie residents swim in and get their drinking water from these waterbodies!

Do your part: keep pollutants off of the ground and out of our waterways.

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