

Proper waste fluid disposal options

You can protect your drinking water and show your community and customers that you care about their health when you follow practices such as:

Run a Dry Shop:

- Install drip pans and trays wherever fluids are transferred
- Use vacuums and absorbents to clean up spills and drips to minimize the use of water when cleaning service areas
- Install physical barriers preventing the waste fluids from entering the floor drains
- Keep waste fluids separate (some can be recycled for profit if they are not mixed)

Connect floor drains to a holding tank:

- Schedule regular pump-outs using licensed and certified haulers
- Ensure your holding tank meets federal, state, and local regulations
- Monitor for leaks and drips regularly

Education:

- Educate your staff about public health consequences of improper waste disposal
- Update shop policies on proper waste fluid handling

For more info on proper waste fluid disposal options visit:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/class5/types_motorvehicles.html#close

To learn more about the EPA's requirements:

Call the EPA Public Environmental Resource Center
Region 10
1-800-424-4EPA

For more info visit:

The EPA's Underground Injection Control Program
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/index.html>

Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/uic/mvwdw>

Self Audit Checklist:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/class5/types_motorvehicles.html#how

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Protecting Health in Indian Country:

*How your motor vehicle
facility can affect your
community's drinking water*



Office of Compliance & Enforcement
Ground Water Unit | UIC Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is dedicated to working with communities to ensure your drinking water is clean and safe today and in the future. This is especially important in Indian Country because over 90% of the population depends on ground water as their source of drinking water. EPA works to prevent ground water pollution and to protect human health by regulating underground waste fluid disposal.

Why is EPA concerned?

During vehicle repair and maintenance activities fluids can drip, spill, or otherwise enter the floor drains or sinks in service areas. If the floor drains and/or sinks are connected to a septic system, dry well, log crib, drain tank, or any other type of underground disposal system, waste fluids may be entering your drinking water. EPA is concerned that human health may be impacted if even small amounts of waste fluids get into the drinking water supply.

Injection: Any activity that disposes fluids from above ground to below ground, with or without added pressure.

Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well: An injection well that receives, or has ever received, waste fluids from motor vehicles.

Underground fluid injection is regulated by EPA

Generally speaking, **injection** is any process that disposes of fluids underground. **Injection wells** are used to dispose of a variety of fluids underground. EPA regulates injection wells that receive, or have ever received, waste fluids from motor vehicles. These wells are referred to as **Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells**, which are classified by the **type of waste received**, not by the shape or construction of the well. In an effort to protect your drinking water resources, EPA banned the use of motor vehicle waste disposal wells in 2000 in Indian Country located in Region 10.

Examples of fluids that should not be disposed of in injection wells

- Engine oil
- Brake Fluid
- Gasoline/Diesel/Aviation fuel
- Antifreeze
- Transmission fluid
- Hydraulic fluid
- Degreasers
- Part cleaning solvents
- Power steering fluid

Businesses that commonly handle these fluids

- Auto service stations
- Auto body shops
- Muffler / Transmission repair shops
- New and used car dealerships
- Airplane maintenance facilities
- Home based vehicle repair businesses
- Railroad maintenance facilities
- Boat maintenance facilities

How to tell if you may have a Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well

Answer the following questions as a self check guide:

1. Does your facility handle motor vehicle waste fluids?	If YES go to question 2.	If NO stop here.
2. Does your facility have floor drains or sinks where these fluids are handled?	If YES go to question 3.	If NO stop here.
3. Are all of your floor drains and sinks connected to a municipal sewer or a holding tank where waste is pumped out regularly and taken off-site?	If YES stop here. You are probably not subject to underground injection requirements *	If NO you may be disposing of your waste fluids into a motor vehicle waste disposal well.

* You may still be subject to local, state, and federal regulations

For more information on how to tell if you are operating a Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well visit:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/class5/types_motorvehicles.html#how

What should you do if you are improperly disposing of shop waste?

If you determine that you are disposing of motor vehicle waste into an injection well it is possible your waste fluids are entering your community's drinking water. Due to the risk to human health your injection well should be permanently closed in a way that will not cause further contamination. Contact EPA to further assess your injection activity and to coordinate pre- and post-closure activities as needed. For more information on EPA well closure guidelines visit:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/class5/types_motorvehicles.html#req2

