

How to Green Your Car Service Shop



- Minimize the liquids you use. Clean up spills immediately and use dry clean-up practices.
- Cut out the use of absorbent (kitty litter, rice hulls, and dry sweep). Instead use a squeegee and dust pan or an oil mop.
- Replace your petroleum naphtha solvent sink with an aqueous-based sink or parts washer.
- Use recycling containers for paper, cardboard, plastic, cans, and glass.
- Order motor oil, anti-freeze, and other fresh fluids in bulk, rather than in multiple, individual containers. Ask your vendor to take back empty containers to get refilled.
- Eliminate the use of spray cans. Replace with brake cleaning sinks or refillable spray containers.
- Replace T-12 bulbs and fixtures with T-8s whenever feasible to produce good lighting with lower energy use. Recycle florescent light bulbs.
- Install timers or motion sensors to shut off lights in rooms that are not in use throughout the work day.
- Eliminate unnecessary car washing. For exterior cleaning use only plain water or prevent soapy water from entering a storm drain.
- Check your water bill monthly to look for and investigate spikes in use that may indicate a leak in your plumbing.
- Always safely dispose of batteries and motor oil, never put in the trash.
- Adopt a “repair vs. replace” mentality. For example, try to repair a plastic bumper instead of replacing the entire bumper. Help keep the landfills and salvage yards free of as much metals and plastics as possible.
- Avoid chlorinated solvents to wash parts. Ask your vendor about less hazardous alternatives that are environmentally friendly.
- Do not eat or drink in a work area exposed to toxic material such as paint fumes.
- Keep hazardous wastes separated and clearly labeled, which is safer and may reduce your recycling charges.
- Choose materials that are recycled, non-toxic, and water-based. Keep good records of materials that did and did not work and share your results with your co-workers and vendor.
- Always use the right respirator for the right job.

This information is provided as a community service of ARCHS’ St. Louis Area Communities Against Toxics (SLACAT) Community Partnership.

For more information refer to www.stlarchs.org.

