

2002 EnviroGuard Company Profile

Small Business Category



Al's Car Care is a full-service automotive repair business that has been serving Boise residents since 1979. The business operates out of two facilities: 8444 Fairview Ave and 1645 Grove Street. The repair facilities service all makes and models, and perform routine servicing as well as engine replacements, air conditioning and computerized system repairs.

Employees of Al's Car Care take a pro active approach to pollution prevention by including environmental issues and information received from Environmental Protection Agency mailings in every bimonthly shop meeting. Richard Foerster, President of Al's Car Care stated, "We are very sensitive to the notion that the automotive industry is considered a dirty industry and we only wish to be an example to others in this trade in what a little bit of effort can accomplish."

Highlights of Al's Car Care pollution prevention efforts include:

- Shops utilize aqueous parts-washers that are serviced on a six-week cycle;
- Shops use dry shop techniques (i.e., spills are swept up with an absorbent material);
- Shops utilize centralized product tanks with dispensing lines to eliminate the use of small containers and reduce the potential for transfer spills;
- Non-chlorinated floor dry is used;
- Floors are cleaned using a biodegradable cleaning product;
- Oil interceptors are serviced at least twice a year or as needed;
- Waste oil tank is located within a secondary containment area;
- Computers are used extensively to reduce the amount of waste paper;
- Automotive batteries are properly stored and recycled through the battery vendor;
- Freon (R12 and/or R134a) is captured and recycled for future use;
- Antifreeze is recycled onsite and reused. Antifreeze is stored over secondary containment;
- All hoists and other equipment with tanks or the potential to leak are mounted above ground to avoid any possible contamination;
- Scrap metal is recycled.