

We're online!  
[www.gptx.org/ARB](http://www.gptx.org/ARB)

Creating raving fans by delivering world class service.

## AUTO RELATED BUSINESS COMPLIANCE MEETING MARCH 6, 2018

### AUTO RELATED BUSINESS MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



Please join us on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, for an Auto Related Business Compliance Meeting from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Environmental Services Department office, 206 W. Church Street, 2nd floor. During this meeting, City staff will discuss what your facility needs to do to remain compliant with Code and Environmental regulations and will answer 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, friendly discussion on compliance issues or obstacles they are experiencing. For more information, please contact Wesley Bacon by phone at (972) 237-7564 or by email at [wbacon@gptx.org](mailto:wbacon@gptx.org).

### Certificate of Occupancy and Zoning

All businesses in Grand Prairie are required to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) prior to using or occupying land, buildings, structures, or suites. The CO states that occupants must comply with the provisions of the Unified Development Code, Auto Related Business Ordinance, and other applicable laws of the City. Once the CO is approved, no change in the existing use or occupancy of the building, structure, or suite within a structure is permitted until an amended application is submitted, reviewed and approved. One of the reviews during the CO process is a review of the proposed use and zoning. Some uses are allowed by right, some require a Specific Use Permit, and some may not be allowed at all in certain zoning or overlay districts. Therefore, it is important that verification is obtained through the Planning Department to ensure that a use is allowed for that zoning district prior to leasing or occupying a land, building, or space within the city. For more information please contact Code Compliance at 972-237-8296.



### Inside this Issue

- 02 Used Motor Oil Hazards  
Clean Shop Awardees
- 03 Soaps and Detergents  
Animals on Commercial Properties  
Texas Trouble
- 04 Top 10 Violations

## HAZARDS OF USED MOTOR OIL

Motor oil inside a car engine is exposed to heat and oxygen during engine combustion, which changes its chemical makeup. Carcinogens known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are added during this process. In addition, pieces of metal from engine wear and tear, such as lead, arsenic, cadmium, and others, make their way into the oil. All of these contaminants are what make used motor oil dangerous for our health and the environment.

Since one single gallon of improperly disposed motor oil can pollute up to one million gallons of fresh water, it is important to take proper caution when storing, handling, and disposing of it. Always wear gloves and long sleeves when handling used motor oil, make sure it is stored in a properly labeled and sealed container, and always use a designated oil-disposal facility to dispose of your used oil.

**CAUTION  
USED OIL**

EnviroSign.com • 800-952-1807 • 1-8228

**HELP MINIMIZE AIR  
POLLUTION.  
FIND OUT HOW AT  
AIRNORTHTEXAS.ORG**



## CONGRATULATIONS 2017 GRAND PRAIRIE CLEAN SHOP AWARDEES!

Each January, City Code and Environmental Quality staff select three shops that achieved the highest level of compliance and excellence in the previous year. It is a tough decision, as there are many great nominees. Congratulations to the following 2017 winners!



### **Orion Collision Repair 2377 Fort Worth St.**

As part of the Specific Use Permit, vehicles awaiting repairs are to be screened from public view. Orion's property does not have a screened area, but shop owner, Victor Figueroa, found a solution to operate in compliance by scheduling vehicles for repair to prevent outside storage violations. This improves the neighborhood aesthetic and reduces the potential of contaminants being introduced into the city's stormwater system from damaged vehicles awaiting repairs.



### **Estrella Tire Shop 2021 E Main St.**

The tire shop keeps all inside and outside areas clean, makes sure tires without rims are not left outside, keeps all waste barrels labeled, and ensures waste manifests are readily available. Parking availability is limited at this site; however, they organize their space and operations in such a way that parking is not an issue.



### **Texas Transeastern 2602 Hardrock Rd.**

The repair shop is kept clean and well organized. The shop floor has no residual staining from previous spills, indicating that fluids are being collected in drip pans and spills are immediately cleaned when they occur. Their lot is well maintained (no staining or spills, grass is cut, trees are trimmed, debris is picked up, no over parking, etc.). In addition, all hazardous waste containers are labeled properly.

## SOAPS & DETERGENTS



The City of Grand Prairie Auto Business Ordinance prohibits the washing of vehicles without the use of an approved sand/grit trap. One of the main reasons for this rule is the potential for negative environmental impacts

caused by soaps and detergents used in car washing activities. Two components of soaps and detergents that can have harmful impacts on the environment are nutrients and compounds known as surfactants.

When discharged to the environment, nutrients such as phosphates can cause increased algae growth. High algae growth can cause a depleted amount of oxygen in water due to the amount of oxygen used up by the algae, which in turn can cause fish kills.

Surfactants lower the surface tension between a liquid and another liquid or a liquid and a solid. This allows for easier removal of dirt or oil from skin, clothes, equipment, etc. However, surfactants can also be harmful to aquatic animals and the environment which is why it is important to only use them when proper containment is available.

Washing vehicles without a sand/grit trap at your business allows used water and soaps to freely discharge, eventually entering a storm drain and then the environment. Using a sand/grit trap, such as the one seen at car washes, allows for used water, soaps and dirt to be contained and later pumped for treatment. Ensure all washing is done properly in your day to day operations. For more information, please contact Environmental Services at 972-237-8055.

## ANIMALS ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

If an owner or employee takes in an animal and they feed it and/or care for it for more than two days, they're considered the owner. All dogs must have and wear a current rabies tag on their collar at all times and the owner must have the rabies certificate that shows the date of vaccination.

If the animal is in a dog run, the run must be 100 square feet in size for one dog and an additional 30 square feet per additional dog. The dog run must be in a shaded area and protected from the elements. Inside the dog run there must be shelter for each animal that must have a top, a solid floor and 3 sides (i.e. dog house). If a dog is observed to be without food, water, shelter, under-weight or has an injury that does not appear to have been treated by a veterinarian, Animal Services may be contacted to further investigate. For more information, please visit [www.gptx.org/paws](http://www.gptx.org/paws).



## TEXAS TROUBLE

An auto body refinishing operation in Tarrant County was fined \$1,000 for failing to comply with their Permit by Rule Registration for air permitting and by failing to comply with the required volatile organic compounds content of 1.4 pounds per gallon for wipe-down solutions utilized at auto body refinishing operations.

A scrap tire facility in Hidalgo County was fined \$19,688 for allowing the unauthorized disposal of municipal solid waste and for failing to identify any vehicle or trailer used to transport used or scrap tires or tire pieces.

A scrap tire facility in Harris County was fined \$7,500 for failing to obtain a scrap tire storage registration for the facility prior to storing more than 500 used or scrap tires on the ground or 2,000 used or scrap tires in containers and failing to obtain a registration to process scrap tires.

A used tire sales and repair shop in Travis County was fined \$5,000 for failing to use manifests or other records to document the removal and management of all scrap tires generated on site and for failing to register as a scrap tire facility before processing scrap tires.

## Useful Contacts

Building Inspections  
(972) 237-8230

Code Compliance  
(972) 237-8296

Environmental Quality  
(972) 237-8055



## Top 10 Violations at Grand Prairie Auto Businesses in 2017

- 1. Improper discharge of vehicle fluids to the ground.**  
All spills to the ground must be cleaned up immediately and disposed of properly. A drip pan should be placed under all leaking vehicles outside. If fluids are discharged to the soil, all affected soil must be removed and disposed of properly.
- 2. Accumulation of trash and debris.**  
All trash should be picked up on a daily basis. Even trash/debris that did not originate from your facility must be picked up. Keep dumpsters closed at all times in order to prevent scattering of trash.
- 3. Discharge from sanding activities.**  
All bondo dust and other sanding dusts must not be allowed to discharge from your facility. All dust must be cleaned up and disposed of properly.
- 4. Storage of tires without rims outside.**  
Tires without rims stored outside can collect stormwater which provides a potential breeding ground for disease carrying mosquitos. Keep all tires without rims under cover.
- 5. Failure to characterize and dispose of waste properly.**  
All wastes must be stored in an approved container and labeled properly. Containers must be in good condition and sealed when not in use. Waste manifests must be kept for 3 years after disposal.
- 6. Certificate of Occupancy Violations.**  
The operator who obtains a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) must follow the regulations stated on the CO at all times. Activities not approved on the CO are not permitted.
- 7. Violation of off street parking regulations.**  
No parking space may be located in the right-of-way of any street, roadway, or public alley. Parking spaces must be provided for employees. No parking or storage of vehicles is allowed in the fire lane.
- 8. More than 2 inoperable vehicles stored outside.**  
The city ordinance allows no more than 2 inoperable vehicles to be stored outside of an enclosed building at any one time.
- 9. Outside repair of vehicles is prohibited.**  
Repair of vehicles outside is not allowed. Working under an awning is considered outside repair.
- 10. Work without approval of the Building Official is prohibited.**  
A permit must be obtained for the installation of signs and any modifications you want to make to buildings.

