

Are you planning to open up a car service or car wash business?

Always contact the environmental health office before opening your business to get information on what rules and laws you need to follow when running your business.

If you are going to wash cars you need to have the right equipment for cleaning the water, normally this means having a class 1 oil separator, and in some cases further cleansing equipment for oil and metals.

If your business is in a building that previously housed a car service, there should be an oil separator installed. But for car washing you often need another better type of oil separator, so that often means that you need to replace the old one. There are strict regulations on how much pollutions, such as oil and metals, there can be in the wastewater.

If you run a car service business with no car washing, make sure to check if there are any drains in the floor where oil and other liquid chemicals can pour into and enter the sewer system. If you have these drains you can block them, but you have to assure that the blocking does not let any liquid through. You can of course keep the drains open but if you do, you are required to install an oil separator in the drains you keep open. If you need to wash cars before you start working on them, you have to do it at a nearby car wash that has the proper cleaning equipment for the wastewater.

You can consider having a channel in the floor for melted snow from the cars you work on during the winter. You can have the channel blocked to let the melt water stay and evaporate in the channel.

If you plan on having open drains in the floor of your business, all of your chemicals must be stored within a small wall or dam that keeps the chemicals from running into the drains if there should be a leak. You can also store the chemicals in a separate room without any floor drain.

It is important to handle dangerous waste, like oil and batteries in a correct way. For more details, we refer to our information about dangerous waste.

The easiest way to handle your waste is to contact another company that has permission to transport dangerous waste and have them collect your waste. With their experience in the field they can make sure that your waste ends up in the right place.

We also have information about oil separators and dangerous waste (only in Swedish). Just contact us and we can send the information to you!