Solvents

Solvents, often from parts washers, are typically the largest hazardous waste streams generated by repair shops. Solvent use, and waste, can be reduced by eliminating unnecessary solvent cleaning requirements and extending solvent use.

Correct:
- ✓ Make sure you understand the chemical properties of the solvent you are using and whether safer, non or less hazardous, solvents are available.
- ✓ Use solvents with the lowest possible volatile organic compounds, VOCs, content.
- ✓ Install drip racks, pans, or other devices to prevent spillage.
- ✓ Contact EHS for disposal. Alternatively, contract with a solvent recycler for recycling and replacement.

Incorrect:
- ✗ Do Not discharge any solvents into a septic tank, sanitary sewer, storm drain, surface water, or on the ground.
- ✗ Do Not clean parts unnecessarily.
- ✗ Do Not mix hazardous and non-hazardous solvents.

For more information concerning the proper management of solvents or to arrange for their disposal, contact Frank Stillo in the Dept. of Environment, Health, and Safety at 919-962-5723, 919-962-5507, or via email at fistillo@ehs.unc.edu