



**GREEN  
WRENCH**  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

# TOOLBOX

SEPTEMBER 2021

## CONGRATULATIONS GTS AUTO SERVICES: FIRST GREENWRENCH CERTIFIED BUSINESS



*John at GTS Auto Services shows off the GreenWrench Certification decal after the business receives its certification.*

DOEE awarded its first GreenWrench Certification in March 2021 to GTS Auto Services. They received the certification for implementing sustainable practices that reduce land, air, and water pollution. These practices include using degreasers that do not contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) quality and lead-free wheel weights. GTS also installed a thermostat with automated temperature setback and “turn off the lights” stickers near light switches to conserve energy. Thank you GTS Auto Services for all you do to protect our environment!

To qualify for certification automotive repair businesses must be in compliance with environmental regulations and complete nine actions, three of which are required and six from a list of options that are listed in the application. Businesses can also propose actions to count towards the certification that are not listed.

## SIGN UP

The GreenWrench Program provides free pollution prevention guidance and training to District auto body and repair shops. GreenWrench services are all free and include:

1. Technical assistance visits
2. Workshops
3. GreenWrench Toolbox Newsletter
4. Certification

Sign up online at  
[doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench](https://doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench)  
or by calling (202) 645-4231.

Businesses can apply by submitting a short application to DOEE, who will schedule a brief site visit. Once certified, shops will be listed on DOEE’s GreenWrench website and receive a window decal to advertise to customers that the shop meets and exceeds environmental standards. Apply each year to keep the certification up to date.

The application to become GreenWrench certified is found at:  
<http://bit.ly/GreenWrenchCertificationApplication>



## DISTRICT BUYING POWER CAN HELP WITH ENERGY COST AND MANAGEMENT



### There is Power in Numbers

Through bulk purchasing, we can lower your energy costs

Enrollment is simple. Scan the code, visit [districtbuyingpower.com](https://districtbuyingpower.com), or call 855-521-8780 and our friendly staff will reach out with details.

 

 

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Through bulk energy purchasing, District of Columbia-endorsed District Buying Power can lower your business's energy costs and help with utility management and benchmark reporting.

Learn More at <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1533481>

## HOW AND WHEN TO REPORT SPILL AND LEAKS

Spills and leaks do not typically have to be reported if the material is able to be contained and cleaned up effectively and immediately. However there are several circumstances when businesses are required to report them. The three most common are listed below.\*

- 1. The spill or leak poses a threat to human health or the environment.** These include spills, leaks, and other discharges that allow raw sewage, hazardous materials (e.g. toxic, flammable, explosive, etc.), and other toxic materials to be released, or an event that gets into the public right-of-way making it unsafe (e.g. slippery or impassable).
  - **Call 911 immediately.**
- 2. The spill or leak could impact the water quality of local streams and rivers.** If material from the spill or leak has gotten into a storm drain and left or is anticipated to leave the site, it needs to be reported. This step is similar to events that pose a threat to human health or the environment (above), but the pollution from these events is not immediately dangerous.
  - **Report the event to DOEE at 202-535-2600 within 24 hours.** DOEE can help you determine if the event could impact water quality and inform you of other reporting requirements.
- 3. The amount of material that is spilled, leaked, or discharged is in a quantity that is legally required to be reported to local and federal authorities.** You must report any leak, spill, or other releases containing a hazardous substance or oil in an amount equal to or in excess of a reportable quantity even if it does not leave the site and even if you are able to clean it up on your own. Reportable quantities are established under 40 CFR Part 110 (oil), 40 CFR Part 117 (hazmat), and 40 CFR Part 302 (hazmat), and includes the total amount spilled, leaked or discharged during a 24-hour period.
  - **Report discharges to DOEE at 202-535-2600**, and if it stays on land, report it to **HSEMA at (202) 727-6161** or if it goes into a water body or the public storm drain system (MS4), call the **US Coast Guard's National Response Center (NRC) at 1-800-424-8802 or 1-202-426-2675.**
  - The reportable quantity for oil includes any amount that causes a film or sheen and that leaves your property (40 CFR Part 110).

\* This list does not include permit-related reporting requirements, such as those required by the federal Multi Sector General Permit for industrial stormwater discharge.

## WHY IS GREENWRENCH FREE?

GreenWrench Technical Assistance program is offered free of charge because it is funded by a grant from the United States EPA's Pollution Prevention (P2) Program.

The P2 Program was created by Congress in 1990 through the Pollution Prevention Act. At that time the federal government was spending tens of billions of dollars each year controlling pollution through regulations, and they wanted to see if they

could achieve the same environmental benefit by working with businesses instead. The program works to reduce and prevent pollution at its source through cost-effective changes in production, operation, and material use. Businesses save money while protecting their community's land, air, and water.

Learn more about the GreenWrench program: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench>

## AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESSES FINED \$350K FOR TOXIC OIL LEAKS AND SPILLS

This past January 2021, Attorney General Karl A. Racine announced a settlement with Andrew Schaeffer and 2201 Channing St., LLC, owners of a commercial property where auto repair and sales businesses violated environmental laws for years in Ward 5's Langdon neighborhood.

The settlement came after a lawsuit filed by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in 2018 because the owners had ignored citations from the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) for improperly storing hazardous waste and allowing oil to leak into District storm sewers and public spaces.

The property is less than 150 yards from a storm drain that empties directly into Hickey Run, a stream

that runs through the United States National Arboretum and out into the Anacostia River.

As part of the settlement, the owners must:

1. Pay the District \$350,000 in civil penalties;
2. Comply with the District's Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Program; and
3. Remediate the 2201 Channing Street NE property along with six other properties.

OAG continues to pursue the businesses that operated out of Schaeffer's property at 2201 Channing St. NE, including Right Hour Auto Sales Inc., Wave Rides Company, and Capitol Hill Auto Repair Inc., for their role in violating the District's environmental laws.

Read more about the settlement at: <https://oag.dc.gov/release/ag-racine-announces-ward-5-property-owners-charged>







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TOOLBOX NEWSLETTER



## DID YOU KNOW?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is celebrating 30 years of the Pollution Prevention Act during this year's Pollution Prevention Week, which runs from September 20th to 26th, 2021.

We invite you to renew your efforts to reduce or eliminate sources of pollution this year. These efforts protect your health and the health of the environment through cost-saving actions.

Find tips, case studies, and other resources at EPA's Pollution Prevention Week website:

[www.epa.gov/p2week](http://www.epa.gov/p2week)