

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

When oil, antifreeze, and other fluids from your vehicle end up on your driveway or street, they will eventually be carried to the nearest river, lake, or stream when it rains. Even small oil and other vehicle fluid leaks can add up. In fact, a single quart of motor oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.

What You Can Do:

- Never dispose of vehicle fluids into the gutter, a storm drain, or drainage ditch. Recycle oil and other fluids.
- Inspect and maintain your car regularly to prevent oil, coolant, and other vehicle leaks.
- Never work on a vehicle in the street or near a stormwater drain or drainage ditch.
- Perform maintenance work on a flat concrete surface where spills can be easily cleaned up.
- Place a tarp, ground cloth, sheet of plywood, cardboard, or newspaper under leaking vehicles to absorb spills.
- Always use a funnel when pouring liquids to avoid spills.
- Use a drip pan under vehicles when changing fluids, unscrewing filters, and removing other parts that might leak,
- Immediately clean up vehicle fluid spills with rags or other absorbent materials such as kitty litter, sawdust, or oil absorbent. DO NOT use water to clean up spills. This has the potential to transport the spilled material to storm drains and other water conveyances.
- Recycle used tires and batteries.

Car Washing:

Washing your car in a driveway, street, or parking lot results in water containing soap, detergents, residue from exhaust fumes, gasoline, heavy metals, and motor oils flowing into storm drains and into the nearest waterbody where it can harm water quality and wildlife. The best way to prevent this is to use a commercial car wash; however, if you choose to wash your car at home, here are some things you can do to minimize your water quality impact:

- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners only.
- Minimize water usage. Use a spray gun with flow restriction to minimize water volume and runoff.

- Wash on an area that absorbs water, such as gravel or grass. This can filter water before it enters groundwater, storm drains, or waterways. Avoid washing cars on concrete or asphalt pavement unless it drains into a vegetated area.
- Always empty wash buckets into sinks or toilets.