



Car Care: Tips and best practice



Some of the harshest household chemicals are those used to maintain automobiles.

The easiest way to reduce the impact of your automobile on the health of our waterways is to check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery regularly for leaks and spills from oils, antifreeze, and other hazardous fluids. If your car leaks onto a surface such as a road, parking lot, or driveway, the chemicals are carried directly into our rivers and lakes.

Do...

- ✓ **...Clean up spilled fluids** and leaks with an absorbent material like cat litter or sand. Don't rinse spills into a nearby storm drain.
- ✓ **...Recycle leftover oil or chemicals** instead of dumping them in the sewer. Find resources for recycling or hazardous waste disposal on your county's website.

Don't...

- ! **...Pour waste oil or cleaning products onto the ground**, the driveway, or the gutter. A single quart of motor oil that seeps into groundwater can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water.
- ! **...Wash your car at home on a paved surface.** Carwashes have treatment systems that remove pollutants before the water leaves the property. If you do wash at home, try to limit your water usage and wash on an unpaved surface.

* Remember...

...if your car leaks on a road, parking lot, or driveway, the chemicals can kill aquatic life and harm humans by polluting drinking water and recreational areas. **Respect our waters by taking care of your car!**