

Changing oil, antifreeze, and other fluids

Proper use and disposal of auto fluids is an easy way to prevent stormwater pollution and protect our creeks and Bay.

- DO drain fluid into a drain pan. Use a funnel to pour fluid into a plastic container.
- DO recycle used oil.
- DO recycle your old oil filter. Poke holes in it and let it drain into your oil pan for several hours first.
- DO dispose of radiator fluid properly. Don't flush your radiator where fluids may flow into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- DON'T drain or pour any auto fluid onto the street or into a storm drain.
- DON'T mix coolant with other auto fluids. They are not recyclable when mixed.

Things you can do to help stop pollution caused by cars...

- Drive less! Walk or ride a bike whenever you can. Consolidate trips. Ride the bus or train. Car pool with a friend.
- Watch for leaks from your car and repair them promptly.
- Recycle used oil and oil filters.
- Exchange your old car battery where you buy a new one or take it to a recycling center or household hazardous waste collection site/event.
- If you see someone pouring used auto fluids into the street, gutter, or storm drain call 911 immediately. Pouring any substance other than **clean water** into the storm drain is illegal!
- When your auto air conditioner requires service, find out if it can be retrofitted to accept a non-ozone depleting agent.

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures for specific types of home maintenance activities.

Other pamphlets include:

- Pest Control Tips
- Home Maintenance Tips
- Landscaping & Gardening



For more information about the stormwater pollution prevention program call:
831-645-4621

For stormwater educational materials, storm drain stenciling or school presentations call:
831-899-9957

Spill Response Agencies

1. **Monterey County Hotline**
(831) 394-6811
2. **County of Monterey Department of Environmental Health** (831) 755-4511
3. **California State Department of Fish & Game**
1-888-DFG-CALTIP (334-2258)
4. **Public Works Departments:**
Carmel By-The-Sea (831) 620-2010
County of Monterey (831) 755-4800
Del Rey Oaks (831) 394-8511
Marina (831) 884-1212
Monterey (831) 646-3920
Pacific Grove (831) 648-5722
Pebble Beach:
Unincorporated County of Monterey (831) 755-4800
Pebble Beach Company (831) 625-8402
Sand City (831) 394-1386
Seaside (831) 899-6825
5. **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**
(831) 647-4201
6. **DIAL 911 (For Emergencies Only)**

Waste Disposal

Monterey Peninsula Waste
Management District
Recycling & Household Hazardous
Waste Collection Program
831) 384-5313



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City of Los Angeles Stormwater Management Division
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Program

Car Care for Do-It-Yourselfers



Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Gardeners, Homeowners, and Landscapers



Funded by the Monterey Regional Storm Water
Management Program

Who should use this brochure?

- Weekend Mechanics
- Do-It-Yourselfers

Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

Around the Monterey Bay, most storm drains flow directly to local creeks, streams, and the ocean sanctuary without treatment. Storm water pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on clean water and for the people who live near streams or the bay.

Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil fuel, fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment, construction debris, landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers, and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour into a street or drain.

The *Stormwater & Education Alliance (SEA)* is involved in educating local residents and businesses to prevent storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

What Can You Do?

Problems

- Each year in the U.S. an estimated 220 million gallons of used oil are disposed of improperly - dripped, spilled, or poured onto the ground, directly into waterways, or down storm drains. That's almost 20 times the amount spilled by the *Exxon Valdez in 1989!*
- Recent studies show that as brake pads wear, they contribute up to 40% of the copper that enters waterways through storm drains.
- Smoking vehicles - just 10% of the cars on the road - cause 50% of our air pollution. And since what goes up must come down, air pollution causes water pollution as well (**Call 1-800-END-SMOG to report smoking vehicles**).
- A car that isn't tuned properly produces 10-15 times more pollution than a well-running vehicle.
- Running your air conditioner for 5-10 minutes each week in the winter helps to prevent your seals from leaking and causing air pollution.

Solutions Your Work Area

When you're working on your car, remember that any drips or spills left in a street or driveway can flow to a storm drain and on to the Bay!

- DO choose a work area that is easy to clean up, with an impervious floor if possible.
- DO use plastic tarps and drip pans when your

car is leaking, and when you're working on it. Fix leaks as soon as possible!

- DO use sawdust or cat litter for spills. Sweep it up, bag it, and put it in the trash. For large spills, use a squeegee and dust pan first.
- DON'T hose down your work area!

Cleaning Your Car

Rinsewater from car washing or brake or engine cleaning can harm wildlife if it enters a storm drain.

- DO use a commercial car wash that recycles water or discharges it directly to the sewer for treatment.
- DO wash your car on a lawn, gravel driveway, or area where soapy water will not run into a street or storm drain.
- DO use soap sparingly if you must wash your car at home - even biodegradable soap is toxic to wildlife.
- DO pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink or toilet when you're done.
- DO use paper towels to wipe brake dust off of wheels before washing.
- DON'T use spray-on wheel cleaners - or rinse them off - where rinsewater might flow to a street or storm drain.

Brake Work

Most brake pads (part of disc brakes, generally on the front wheels) contain copper, which wears off as the pads wear, and contributes significant amounts of toxic stormwater pollution to our creeks and Bay.

- DO clean brake dust off of wheels with paper towels, and dispose of towels in the trash.
- DO ask your auto parts supplier about no-copper or low-copper brake pads for your car.
- DON'T clean wheels, brakes, or brake pads where brake pad dust, cleaners, or rinsewater can flow to a street or storm drain.

Engine Cleaning and Degreasing

Many degreasers contain highly toxic solvents that are dangerous to work with and harmful to the environment.

- DO read labels carefully before you buy.

Avoid products containing

- Trichloroethane or trichloroethylene
 - Naphtha
 - Nonylphenol ethoxylate
- DO use rags instead of water when you're cleaning.
 - DO use non-flammable, more biodegradable alternatives to highly toxic degreasers. Try d-limonene, a citrus-based solvent. Put any rinsewater down a sink or toilet - never into a storm drain.
 - DON'T clean your engine at home unless you can contain and properly dispose of the rinsewater - a hazardous waste. Instead, take your engine, or parts, to a local parts store that offers a cleaning service or to a shop that collects and treats engine wastewater.