

3 Big Ways to Curb Your Car's Water Pollution

Repair Leaks

Spots on your driveway or garage floor mean the engine, transmission or radiator in your car is leaking. Have the leak repaired right away. Then clean up the spot by using cat litter or another absorbent material to soak up the spill. Sweep up the cat litter and put it in a sealed bag in the trash for disposal. Do not scrub the spot with detergent and wash the dirty water into the street. Remember, all that dirty water ends up in lakes and streams.



Recycle Oil

Old motor oil can be reprocessed and used again and again. Just put it in a container with a tight lid such as a plastic jug or metal can, and take it to a community oil recycling center. Don't pour anything else in with the oil because contaminated oil cannot be recycled. Recycling is the only safe way to get rid of used motor oil. Never use old oil to kill weeds or to oil roads for dust management. Oil poured down the storm drain ends up in our lakes and streams. The five quarts from your car could create an oil slick the size of two football fields or pollute a million gallons of drinking water.



Use Commercial Car Washes

Taking your car to a commercial car wash or spray booth is a good way to protect our lakes and streams. The dirty water from the car wash goes to a wastewater treatment plant where pollutants are removed. If you wash cars on a paved driveway or parking lot, the dirty water ends up in our lakes and streams. In addition, phosphates in the soap you use act like fertilizer. Weeds and algae decompose and use up oxygen needed by fish. If you want to wash your car at home, drive it onto the lawn where the water will soak into the ground. The soil will filter out most pollutants.

