Did you know that one quart of oil poured down a storm drain can contaminate one million gallons of water? Water that goes down storm drains does not go to treatment plants.

Automobile Fluids are Harmful to Water Quality

Put the brakes on water pollution!

Oil, antifreeze and other fluids from your vehicle that end up on your driveway or street will eventually be carried by stormwater to the nearest river, lake or stream when it rains. Small oil leaks and other vehicle fluids can add up to a big problem for our waterways. In fact, a single quart of motor oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.

Here’s what you can do:

* Never dispose of vehicle fluids into a storm drain or drainage ditch. Recycle oil and other fluids.
* Inspect and maintain your car regularly to prevent leaks of oil, coolant and other vehicle fluids.
* Immediately clean up vehicle fluid spills with rags or other absorbent materials such as kitty litter, sawdust or oil absorbent.
* Recycle used tires and batteries.
* Go to www.earth911.com to find a local parts stores and service stations in your community that will recycle vehicle fluids, batteries, oil filters and parts.

If you do auto repairs at home:

* 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 a vehicle to capture any leaks or spills.
* Always use a funnel when pouring liquids to avoid spills.

Use a drip pan under a vehicle when changing fluids, unscrewing filters and removing other parts that might leak.

For more information on water pollution prevention and keeping stormwater clean, visit [stormwatercoalition.org](https://stormwatercoalition.org/).

Read more about how oil and water don’t mix at <https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/KSMO_oil.pdf>