



Phase II Storm Water Program

Winter 2021

Vehicle Maintenance

In recent years regulation has greatly reduced the amount of water pollution. Now, the majority of water pollution comes from sources that are not easily regulated such as automobiles that have fluid leaks. With the amount of vehicles on the road this adds up to be a large source of pollution. Automobile fluids are primarily oils and do not mix or dissolve with water and remain pollutants until they are cleaned up. These toxic pollutants leak from automobiles and enter the storm drains where they contaminate lakes and streams. In order to reduce the total amount of pollution, individual automobile owners need to be aware of the cause and effects of automobile fluid leaks. Individuals can take steps such as regular vehicle maintenance to reduce the amount of water pollution to protect our natural water sources.

Potential fluid pollutants that may come from an automobile include engine oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, and break fluid. These fluids all contain toxic chemicals such as heavy metals that are poisonous to wildlife.

Used automobile oil is the largest single source of oil pollution. It is estimated that 200 million gallons of used motor oil are improperly disposed of each year by being dumped onto the ground, disposed of in landfills, and being poured into storm drains.



What you can do to reduce pollution

- ◆ Regularly check your vehicle for leaks.
- ◆ Ensure that you are taking your vehicle to a business who disposes of waste oil properly.
- ◆ If servicing your own vehicle make sure not to spill any automobile fluids and to dispose of used oil properly.
- ◆ If you do spill oil use an oil absorbent such as cat litter to clean up the oil and dispose properly.
- ◆ Take waste oil to an approved waste oil collection company.