

PREVENTING POLLUTION FROM HOME VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Many people perform at least some of their own routine maintenance on their vehicles. From simple oil changes to complete overhauls, working on your own car is an American tradition. But working on a car can also be a source of water pollution. Fortunately, there are some simple steps you can take to keep our water clean.

Automobile repair and maintenance have the potential to pollute storm drain systems through spills or dumped waste fluids entering the storm drain system. Automotive fluids such as oils, greases, and solvents, contain hydrocarbons, heavy metals and other toxic compounds. Cleaning caked dirt and grime from engines and undercarriages in your driveway increases the sediment load in the storm drain system.

Pollution prevention activities are used to prevent spills from occurring in places where runoff can carry the spill to the storm drain. Source control activities are performed to remove spills from areas where runoff may carry the spill to the storm drain.



Additional Resources:

Environmental Protection Agency
(Stormwater Sources and Solutions:
tinyurl.com/57h7ak6w

Environmental Protection Agency
(NPDES Stormwater Program):
tinyurl.com/5cw42x79

Produced by the City of Fullerton's
Public Works Department



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Simple steps you can take to keep
our water clean



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Preventing dangerous runoff from vehicle maintenance is simple. Just doing the things listed to the right will ensure work on your car protects the environment.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The following suggestions were developed to give you some ideas on how you can safely work on your car. They're common-sense things that don't take a lot of time or cost a lot of money but can do a lot to prevent water pollution.

- Recycle used oil and anti-freeze by taking them to designated recycling centers. For a facility near you call (714) 834-6752 or (714) 738-6884.
- Never pour oil or other automotive fluids into the gutter or storm drain. Its not only bad for environment, its against the law.
- Clean up any spills with proper absorbent materials. Don't wash down oil spills or absorbent materials into the gutter.
- Store hazardous substances in sealed contains indoors, under cover, or in watertight containers.

- Work on your car on a concrete or other hard surface so spills can be easily cleaned up.
- Use drip pans or plastic sheeting under your car to catch any fluid leaks before they hit the ground.
- Be sure oily rags and left over cleaning solvents are properly discarded.

