

PREVENTING POLLUTION FROM PARKED CARS

Did you know the water that runs off your property and from the streets runs directly to the ocean without treatment? Anything that runs down the gutter will eventually end up on our beaches and in our coastal waters. That's why we have to be sure to keep pollutants out of the drain system.

Parked automobiles may add pollutants to the storm drain because vehicles may leak fluids containing hydrocarbons, metals, and other toxic materials. In addition, heavily soiled automobiles may drop clods of dirt onto the surface, contributing to the sediment load when runoff is present. When it rains, or when cars are washed, the pollutants may be carried into the storm drain system.

A small leak from a single car may not seem very dangerous, but if you think about the millions of cars in Orange County, all those little drips and drops can add up to a lot of pollution in drainage channels, and beaches, affecting sea life and posing health hazards to humans, too. In fact, high bacterial levels from untreated runoff have been the number one cause of beach closures for several years.



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



PREVENTING POLLUTION FROM PARKED OR STORED VEHICLES

Simple steps you can take to keep our
oceans clean



WHAT YOU CAN DO

The following suggestions were developed to give you some ideas on how you can safely park or store 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.

- Move your car off the street during designated street sweeping days and times. This will ensure debris doesn't build up under your car.
- Put a pan or other collection device under your car if it might leak fluids until you can get it properly repaired.
- Be sure your vehicle receives proper maintenance to minimize or eliminate leaks.
- If you discover a leak, use a dry-cleaning agent to clean the spill. Auto parts stores and most general merchandise stores sell special absorbents for cleaning up vehicle spills.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Preventing dangerous runoff from parked cars is simple. Just doing the things listed to the right will ensure your vehicle is safely parked or stored.

- Never use water to wash oil stains or other vehicle fluids into the gutter.
- If you're going to store your vehicle outside for an extended period of time, cover it with a weather proof tarp. This will not only keep your car clean, it will help prevent rainwater from being contaminated by chemicals in and on your vehicle.

