When Your Car Leaks Oil on the Street, Remember... It's Not Just Leaking Oil on the Street.

Leaking oil goes from your car to the street and is washed from the street into the storm drain and into our lakes, streams and bays. Imagine the number of cars in your community and you can imagine the amount of oil that finds its way from leaky gaskets into our water. So please, fix oil leaks.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ADEM
Alabama Department of Environmental Management

CWP
Alabama
Clean Water Partnership

Thanks to the Washington Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle, and Tacoma.

Help Stop Pointless Pollution

Be a part of the cleanup of the waterways in our area.

Clean water is important to all of us.

In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from sources like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. Each of us can do our part to help clean up our water.

Why do we need clean water?

Clean water is important to our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. Everyone benefits from clean water.

What's the problem with motor oil?

Oil does not dissolve in water. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife and plants. One pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field. Oil that leaks from our cars onto roads and driveways is washed into storm drains, or directly into our lakes, streams or marine water. Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollutants (over 180 million gallons per year), in our lakes, streams and rivers.

How can you prevent motor oil pollution and help keep our waters clean?

- Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground or into a ditch. Recycle used motor oil. Many auto supply stores and gas stations will accept used oil.
- Check for oil leaks regularly and use drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks. Keep your car tuned to reduce oil use.
- Use ground cloths while performing engine work. Clean up spills immediately. Collect all used oil in containers with tight fitting lids.
- Buy recycled (re-refined) motor oil to use in your car.

For more information contact:

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