

Caring for Your Car Without Harming the Environment

Many of the products we use to keep our cars running properly and looking their best contain toxins which pose a threat to the environment and specifically our metro lakes when not used or disposed of properly. Gasoline, oil, grease, antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, brake fluid, soaps and polishes and degreasers can contain toxins harmful to the environment. The excess products that are spilled or disposed of improperly can be carried into gutters and watershed storm drains and into the City of Omaha lakes.

WHATEVER GOES INTO THE WATERSHED STORM DRAIN, TRAVELS DIRECTLY INTO THE LAKES.

One spilled oil change alone is sufficient to create an oil slick the size of two football fields, harming fish and wildlife. Antifreeze is extremely toxic to fish and other aquatic wildlife. Pets can also die after ingesting only a small amount of antifreeze. The dirty wash water from washing our cars can carry toxic chemicals, detergents, and sediments directly to our lakes. Chemicals in soaps and detergents are highly toxic to fish and other marine life. These pollutants at high concentrations can result in fish kills.

Vehicle Maintenance Tips to Protect the Environment

- **have your antifreeze changed at a commercial business that recycles antifreeze.**
- **Have your oil changed professionally. If you change your own oil- Recycle the used oil.**
- **Fix your car's oil and fluid leaks.**
- **Recycle car batteries.**
- **Take your car to a commercial car wash.**
- **If you wash your car on the street use only water.**
- **Wash your car on the lawn or a dirt area and use a biodegradable and non-toxic soap.**
- **Wipe or brush on polishes and cleansers rather than spraying.**
- **Use an absorbent material for oil and grease spills.**
- **Never hose down oil or grease spills.**
- **Dispose of filters in a plastic bag. Recycle if possible.**
- **Never pour excess products down the storm sewer.**
- **Use water-based detergents or citrus-based degreasers.**
- **Never use gasoline to clean auto parts.**



Practice responsible behaviors. Don't litter or pollute. Help protect our lakes.

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