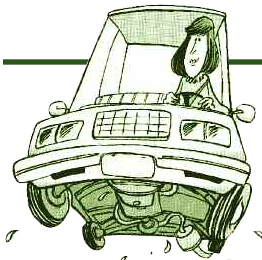


Cars for Cleaner Creeks

tips for stormwater management on your property



DID YOU KNOW:

Cars contribute to pollution of our streams. Even small amounts of used oil or leaking fluids are easily washed by stormwater into stormdrains where they pollute our streams.

Here are some tips on how to operate your car to minimize your impact on the environment.

1 Recycle Oil and Antifreeze

- Motor oil can be reprocessed for reuse. Put used oil in a clean container with a tight lid, and take it to a community oil recycling center. Do not put anything else in with the oil because contaminated oil cannot be recycled.
- Used antifreeze should not be flushed down the drain or put in the trash because it contains toxins that may cause problems for wastewater treatment plants or leach from landfills.

For a list of sites that recycle automotive wastes, see links listed below.*



2 Use Commercial Car Washes

- Take your car to a commercial car wash or spray booth where dirty water is typically filtered for reuse, and ultimately is treated at a wastewater treatment plant.
- Conduct fundraisers in partnership with local car wash operators.

3 Keep Your Car Serviced

A well-tuned car saves you money by using 20% less gasoline. Regular tune-ups reduce the amount of hydrocarbons, nitrous oxides, and other pollutants which pollute our water as well as our air.

4 Repair Leaks

- Spots on your driveway or garage floor mean the engine, transmission, or radiator in your car is leaking. Have the leak repaired right away.
- Clean up spots and spills with cat litter or another absorbent material and put in the trash.
- Do not dump or hose these pollutants into streets or stormdrains.

5 Return Used Batteries

- Return your used car or truck battery to the place where you bought it.
- Do not throw old batteries in the trash or bury them—you'll be breaking the law. Old batteries contain hazardous chemicals that can leach through the soil and pollute our groundwater.

6 Check Tire Pressure

- One of the simplest and cheapest ways to prevent pollution is to keep your tires properly inflated. For every pound that your tires are underinflated, your car loses 1% in gas mileage.
- Underinflated tires also wear out sooner.

*For a list of certified Automotive Drop-Off Centers, see www.chestercountywa.org/pdf/auto.pdf or www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/pdf/motoroil.pdf.

This message is brought to you by your municipality and Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association, www.crcwatersheds.org with credit to the University of Wisconsin-Extension.