



Making Auto Care Stormwater- Friendly

Fall & Winter 2008

Do You Change Your Own Oil?

Recycling used oil doesn't simply keep it out of stormdrains; 2 gallons can generate enough energy to run an average household for almost 24 hours!

If you change your own motor oil, it is possible to recycle the used oil. Pouring it out *anywhere* is a threat to drinking water supplies and the waters that we Rhode Islanders love to fish, boat, and enjoy! To recycle your used oil:

1. Drain it into a container with a tight-fitting cap.
2. Take the used oil to a transfer station in your community or to a local auto parts shop. Most will collect used oil from you. For a list of contact information for transfer stations in Rhode Island, check out the Department of Environmental Management's Licensed Facilities List, online at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/pdf/swfacs.pdf>



Do You Wash Your Car At Home?

You might notice something different about the photos to the left of people washing their cars. They aren't doing it on the driveway, or in the street. They're washing their cars on the grass. It's not something that most of us would consider a form of pollution, but washing your car on a paved surface allows the soapy water and dirt from your car to quickly enter a stormdrain. From there, it goes directly to local waters.

Simply moving your car off of a paved surface and onto a more permeable one such as the lawn or a gravel driveway can help keep that pollution out of stormdrains.

The best way to reduce pollution from car washing, though, is to wash your car at a certified car wash facility. They are required to recycle, collect, or dispose of the wash water properly.



Everyday Maintenance

In addition to recycling used oil and avoiding washing your car on paved surfaces, simple regular maintenance is one of the best ways to minimize the impact your vehicle has on stormwater problems. After all, oil, grease, and other automotive fluids are one of the main sources of stormwater pollution. Regular inspections of your car or truck will help ensure that unwanted leaks are kept to a minimum; they'll help keep your vehicle running longer and better, too!

Every year in Rhode Island, do-it-yourself oil changers discard 1.4 million gallons of oil. Where does it go?



For more information:

Visit the website: <http://www.ristormwatersolutions.org>

Contact Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation at 401.942.1430 or visit their website at <http://rirc.org>