

Stormwater Tips for Homeowners



Car Care

- Use a commercial car wash to prevent oil and grease and other toxic liquids from washing into our storm drains. At home, use a shut off nozzle on your hose and use detergents and water sparingly. Vehicles should be washed on the lawn, which can absorb unwanted runoff.
- Many commercial grade soaps contain non-biodegradable detergents and acids. If you are washing your car at home, try buying soaps that are labeled “non-toxic”, “phosphate-free” or biodegradable”. The safest products and most environmentally friendly products are vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.



Image borrowed from <http://savelakesamm.org>

- Use an oil pan when changing oil to keep fluids off the pavement. Check local body shops and quick lubes to find a place to appropriately dispose of used oil.
- When changing fluids, do not dump the fluids into the gutter or lawn because the fluid from one oil change can pollute up to a million gallons of fresh water.
- Maintain your vehicle so that it doesn't leak oil and antifreeze on the ground. Park your car over a piece of cardboard overnight to see what and how much fluid might be leaking. If there is a leak, get it fixed, or continue to soak up leaking fluids at night with a mat that can be eventually thrown away.
- Join a carpool, use public transportation, or ride your bike to reduce pollutants on our streets.