

Five Ways to: Reduce your Vehicle's Environmental Impact

How it Happens:

We all know that cars cause air pollution. But did you know that cars also cause water pollution? As we drive, our cars and trucks leave brake dust, rusty metal, and bits of tires on the streets. When we park, our cars and trucks leave stains of oil, grease, and transmission fluid on driveways and parking lots. Less visible are the tiny exhaust particles that gradually settle out of the air or come down with the rain or snow. What happens to all this "car dirt" when it rains? It washes off the pavement, goes down into the gutter, flows through the storm drains, and eventually makes it to our lakes and streams.

How to Make a Difference:

1. **Recycle Oil** - Old motor oil can be reprocessed and used again and again. Just put it in a container with a tight lid such as a plastic jug or a metal can, and take it to a community oil recycling center. Don't pour anything else in with the oil because contaminated oil can not be recycled.
2. **Use Commercial Car Washes** - The dirty water from the car wash goes to a wastewater treatment plant where pollutants are removed. If you wash cars on a paved driveway or parking lot, the dirty water ends up in our lakes and streams.
3. **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, then clean up the spot by using cat litter or another absorbent material to soak up the spill.

4. **Recycle Antifreeze** - A few recycling sites now have separate tanks for antifreeze collection, check with your local gas station and auto repair shop - they may accept used antifreeze. Never flush antifreeze down the drain, it has pollutants that may cause problems for sewage treatment plants or septic tanks.
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 - not only is it harmful it is against the law. Old batteries contain hazardous chemicals that can leach through the soil and pollute our groundwater.

By following the simple steps listed above, we can all help reduce the pollution that comes from our cars, streets, driveways and parking lots.



Did you know there are approximately 255,000,000 vehicles registered in the United States?



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