



Loudoun County lies within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Land use, agricultural activities, and stormwater pollution in Loudoun County affect the health of the Bay.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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(571) 258-3542
www.loudoun.gov/stormwater

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, VISIT:

Loudoun County's Solid Waste
Management Facility Recycling
Center
www.loudouncounty.gov/landfill-recyclingcenter

Used Motor Oil Collection & Recycling
- American Petroleum Institute
www.recycleoil.org



Loudoun County appreciates your help in protecting our valuable water resources.

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Leesburg, VA 20175

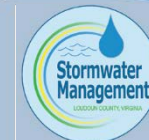


Help Protect Loudoun County's
Streams and Lakes

A Resident's Guide
to Automotive Care for
a Cleaner Environment



Be the Solution to
Stormwater Pollution

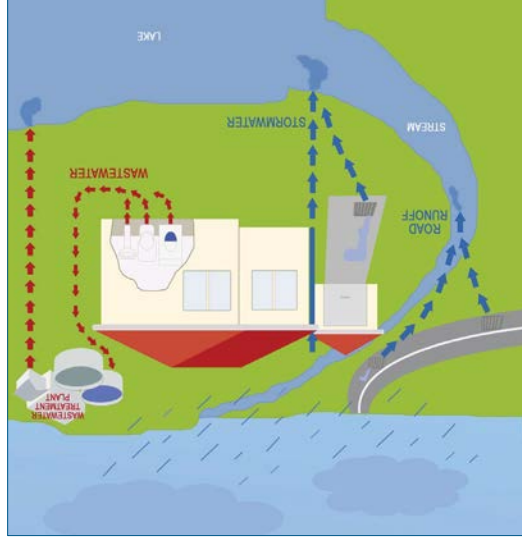


the problem

Many common automobile maintenance routines such as car washing, and changing and disposal of motor oil can contribute to pollution of streams and rivers.

Pollutants from such activities include suspended solids, heavy metals, toxic compounds, oil & grease, gasoline, antifreeze, and detergents. All of these can contaminate our water supplies, kill fish and aquatic life, and prevent us from enjoying water as a natural resource.

Stormwater runoff from streets, parking lots, and driveways picks up auto pollutants and carries them into storm drains. The untreated water eventually discharges into a natural body of water.



Oil does not dissolve in water. It lasts a long time and sticks to everything from beach soil to bird feathers. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife, and plants.

the facts

Some of the harmful effects of automobile pollutants on our waterways are:

- Oil and grease/gasoline are toxic to aquatic organisms at low concentrations and also can make water unfit for recreational use.
- Car wash detergents contain the nutrient phosphorus, which can cause large amounts of algae to grow. The algae blocks sunlight and depletes oxygen and is harmful to aquatic life.
- Metals and detergents affect biological systems and can be toxic to aquatic organisms.



- Four quarts of oil can form an 8-acre oil slick if dumped or spilled down a drain.
- Recycling just 2 gallons of used oil can generate enough electricity to run the average household for almost 24 hours.
- The average homeowner uses 116 gallons of water to wash a car! Most commercial car washes use 60% less water in the entire washing process than a simple home wash uses just to rinse off a car.

the solution

Autocare tips to help prevent non-point source pollution:

- Recycle auto fluids at designated drop-off or recycling locations and never dump them down the storm drain.
- Conduct engine degreasing and oil change operations at a commercial facility that is set up to handle that type of waste.
- Use funnels or pumps to avoid spills while changing oil.

Car Wash

- Take your car to a commercial carwash where the dirty water is treated and/or recycled.
- If you choose to wash your car at home, wash it less often and on pervious areas such as lawns and gravel areas.

- Choose detergents labeled "non-toxic," "phosphate free," or "biodegradable" that are safe for the environment.
- Use a bucket or a hose with a nozzle that can be turned off to wash and rinse vehicles at home; also, direct the dirty water away from the storm drain.

Spills/Leaks

- Inspect and service your car regularly to prevent leaks.
- Never hose down spills into the gutter or stormdrain; instead, use saw dust or kitty litter to absorb the spill, then sweep it, bag it, and dispose in the trash.