

## Maintaining Your Vehicle

Vehicle maintenance is an important and easy way to reduce the amount of oil, heavy metals, and other toxic chemicals reaching our drinking water. After oil has leaked from a car onto a driveway, rainwater washes it into the street, toward the nearest drainage pipe. This water then flows to the nearest stream or river. It is estimated that 180 million gallons of oil are disposed of improperly each year. A single quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of drinking water.



*Image credit: Chesapeake Bay Drainage*  
<http://www.bayactionplan.com/stormwater-management/>

Check your vehicle regularly for oil leaks and drips. If leaks or drips are found, fix them as quickly as possible. Use ground cloths or drip pans when leaks are found, while changing the oil, or when working on the engine. If a spill occurs while changing the oil or working on the engine, clean up the spills immediately and properly dispose of the clean up materials.



Collect used oil in containers with tight fitting lids (i.e. plastic jugs). Be sure to recycle the oil in the proper locations. Auto supply stores, car care centers, and gas stations usually accept used oil. Do not mix waste oil with gasoline, solvents, or other engine fluids. If mixed the oil will become contaminated and will not be able to be reused. Motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, or other engine fluids should never be dumped onto roads, down the storm drain or catch basin, onto the ground, or into a ditch.

*Image credit: Drains to Our Streams*  
[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/stormdrained\\_flier.pdf](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/stormdrained_flier.pdf)

### Where To Get Help for vehicle maintenance information

- Vehicle Maintenance;  
<http://www.dmv.org/how-to-guides/vehicle-maintenance.php>
- Top 10 Car Care Tips;  
<https://www.kbb.com/car-advice/articles/top-ten-car-care-tips/>
- Vehicle Maintenance Tips;  
<http://www.ase.org/resources/fuel-efficiency-top-tips-save-gas-and-money>