

IT'S TIME TO WORK ON THE CAR!



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year in the United States, an estimated **180 million** gallons of used oil are disposed of improperly. That's sixteen times the amount spilled by the *Exxon Valdez*! Improper disposal of auto fluids includes dripping, spilling, or pouring them onto the ground, directly into waterways, or down storm drains.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Proper use and disposal of auto fluids is an easy way to prevent stormwater pollution and protect our lakes and streams.

- ◆ **DO** drain fluid into a drain pan. Use a funnel to pour fluid into a plastic container.
- ◆ **DO** recycle used oil.
- ◆ **DO** recycle your old oil filter. Poke holes in it and let it drain into your oil pan for several hours first.
- ◆ **DO** dispose of radiator fluid properly. Don't flush your radiator where fluids may flow into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- ◆ **DO** use a commercial car wash that recycles water or discharges it directly to the sewer for treatment.
- ◆ **DO** wash your car on a lawn, gravel driveway, or area where soapy water will not run into a street or storm drain.
- ◆ **DO** use soap sparingly if you must wash your car at home - even biodegradable soap is toxic to wildlife.
- ◆ **DO** pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done.
- ◆ **DO** use paper towels to wipe brake dust off of wheels before washing.
- ◆ **DO** choose a work area that is easy to clean up, with an impervious floor if possible.
- ◆ **DO** use plastic tarps and drip pans when your car is leaking, and when you're working on it. Fix leaks as soon as possible!
- ◆ **DO** use sawdust or cat litter for spills. For small spills, sweep the material up, bag it, and put it in the trash. For large spills, take the material to a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal center or collection day (visit www.uwex.edu/erc/hazwste.html for a list of Household Hazardous Waste facilities and programs)
- ◆ **DON'T** drain or pour any auto fluid onto the street or into a storm drain.
- ◆ **DON'T** mix coolant with other auto fluids. They are not recyclable when mixed.
- ◆ **DON'T** use spray-on wheel cleaners or rinse them off, if the rinsewater will flow into the street or storm drain.
- ◆ **DON'T** hose down your work area!

Modified from the City of Monterey Public Works—Stormwater Management Program

REMEMBER any drips or spills left in a street or driveway can flow to a storm drain and into a lake or stream!

