

Cars are sources of water pollution too



Many automotive fluids—oil, antifreeze, de-greasers—are hazardous materials. Leaking vehicles leave stains of oil, grease, and transmission fluid on driveways and parking lots. Rain or irrigation water washes over these areas, carrying pollutants to the storm drain. When washing your car, detergents and solvents run off into the street and into storm drains. Water from the storm drains is directly discharged into our lakes and rivers without treatment, harming aquatic life.



"Run off" from impervious surfaces like driveways, flows into the nearest storm drain. It is normally untreated before reaching its final destination such as a lake or stream.

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Stormwater Best Management
Practices Series

Home Repair, Remodeling, and Vehicular Waste



Vehicle Solutions



What can you do to prevent pollution?

- Never dump used motor oil in the storm drain; recycle oil and other automotive fluids
- Avoid spills by using a drip pan
- Use an absorbent material, such as cat litter, to clean up spills; sweep up and properly dispose of in the trash
- Avoid hosing down your garage and driveway; sweep instead
- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash or wash

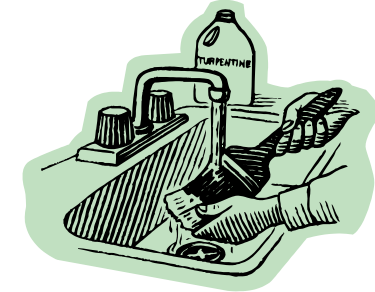
Home Pollutants

How can home improvement projects harm the environment?

Paints, solvents, adhesives, and common household products used in home improvement projects may contain toxic materials. If not disposed of properly, these products can run off into storm drains and end up in our lakes and rivers, polluting our water and causing harm to wildlife and the environment. Dirt from excavations can run into storm drains, causing clogs or harming aquatic life.



Construction



What can you do to prevent pollution?

- Clean water based paint from brushes in a sink, not outside with a hose
- Dispose of paint, solvents, and other toxic products properly
- Keep all construction debris away from streets, gutters, and storm drains
- Cover or contain excavated material to prevent erosion
- Never dispose of cement washout or concrete dust onto driveways, streets, or gutters