

Oil and Water Don't Mix

Watershed Tip

Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in our lakes, rivers and streams.



Used motor oil never wears out - it just gets dirty and can be recycled, cleaned and used again. Motor oil poured onto the ground or into storm drains, or tossed into trash cans (even in sealed containers) can contaminate and pollute the soil, groundwater, streams, and rivers.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that over 200 million gallons of do-it-yourself used oil ends up in the trash, in water and poured on the ground each year.

Keep oil out of our lakes and rivers!

- 1) Recycle used motor oil at a local collection center.
- 2) Have your car checked for any leaking fluids that might run-off into storm drains. Cars that leak oil and other fluids pollute our water.
- 3) Recycle and re-use oil filters. Recycling one ton of drained oil filters produces 1,700 pounds of steel and recovers about 60 gallons of used oil.

Stormwater runoff from rain and melting snow flows over rooftops, streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows, runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. **This water drains directly into nearby creeks, streams and rivers, without receiving treatment at sewage plants.** One quart of oil poured down a storm drain can contaminate one million gallons of water.