how you can help the watershed...

automotive care

Your car represents a significant financial investment. You rely on it for safe, convenient transportation. **Get the most out of your car** by practicing routine automotive maintenance.

You'll also protect water quality.

The next time it rains, look closely at your drive or the nearest parking lot. Signs of fluid leaks from cars can be found in the colorful "oil rainbows" slicked across the pavement. These leaks are composed of highly toxic materials, such as antifreeze, motor oil, brake fluid and transmission fluid. When these toxic materials enter the storm drain system or leach into the soil, surface and ground water supplies are contaminated.

Improve water quality right now. Take care of your car.

Disposal help

Contact your local county home toxics reduction facility:

Livingston 517-545-9609

Oakland 248-858-1312

Washtenaw 734-222-3950

Your local service center may offer assistance with proper disposal of automotive fluids.

Developed in partnership with the City of Ann Arbor, the Village of Milford, MDEQ and USEPA.
For more information, call the Huron River Watershed Council at **734-769-5123** or find us on the web at **www.hrwc.org**.

automotive care

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A. **Maintain** your car. Repair any automotive fluid leaks right away. Use a drip pan to catch leaks if repairs are delayed.

B. Collect and **dispose of fluids from routine maintenance properly** (motor oil, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluid). Use a separate container for each fluid type and label it clearly. Never "flush out" engine components onto drives or streets.

C. Clean up spills properly. Use kitty litter to absorb the spilled substance. Then sweep into an open bag and let it air dry. Never wash spills off pavement and into storm drains.

D. Use **less toxic antifreeze**. Ethylene glycol antifreeze is highly toxic, and it is especially hazardous for children and animals because of its sweet taste. Antifreeze made of propylene glycol is less toxic and safer for the environment. It has no sweet taste, making it less attractive to children and animals. Plus, propylene glycol is just as effective as ethylene glycol antifreeze. Propylene glycol antifreeze is readily available at most auto stores and repair shops.

E. Wash your car right. **Direct wash water onto lawn areas,** not into storm drains. **Or use a commercial car wash.** State law requires that commercial car wash facilities treat waste water prior to discharge.

Taking care of your car can be good for the environment, too.