



Vehicle Repair and Washing

Pollution Prevention Tips

Pollution prevention can be easy--most of the time it only takes making small changes in the way you do things around the house and in your yard!

Pollution from your home can reach Monterey Bay through the storm drain system or nearest creek whether you live next to the ocean or not. **Please follow these tips to help keep our aquatic wildlife healthy, and Santa Cruz clean and beautiful!**

Home Auto Repair

Keep your car well maintained to prevent leaks of oil, antifreeze, and other fluids. Check your car regularly for leaks!

- **Don't drain or pour oil, antifreeze, radiator water, or any other automotive fluids into the street or a storm drain. It's illegal and these fluids are toxic to aquatic life.**

- Fix leaks as soon as possible! Leaks and drips of oil and other automotive fluids end up in our driveways, streets, and parking lots. When it rains, these pollutants are then washed off into the nearest storm drain which flows directly to Monterey Bay *without any treatment*.



- Clean up drips and spills immediately using dry absorbents, such as rags or kitty litter. If your vehicle has a slow leak, place a drip pan or piece of material under it (cardboard or carpet scraps), to capture the drip until the leak is fixed.
- When working on your car, use drip pans to catch drips and spills.
- Recycle used motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze. Do not mix coolants with other automotive fluids because they are not recyclable when mixed. The City picks up motor oil and motor oil filters as part of the curbside recycling collection program.
- If you need an oil container or have any questions, please call City Customer Service at 420-5220.
- For antifreeze disposal, please call the County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, at 454-2606.
- Don't use engine, brake, or wheel cleaners in areas where these products can end up in the street or a storm drain inlet, either carried by rinse water or rain during the next storm. In fact, it is better to wipe these products off with a rag or paper towel instead of rinsing with water.
- Take your vehicle to a repair shop that uses environmentally sound practices or is a City of Santa Cruz Clean Ocean Business.



Vehicle Washing

Even biodegradable soap can be toxic to fish and other aquatic life. The term “biodegradable” doesn’t mean that something is safe—it just means that the substance will break down at some time in the future.

- **Use minimal amounts of soap and water when washing your car, truck or boat.**
 - Wash your vehicle in an area that drains to dirt, grass or landscaping if possible. Minimize/prevent soapy runoff to the street or a storm drain inlet.
 - After washing, pour the bucket of soapy water into a sink or an indoor drain. Please don’t dump it on your driveway, in the street, or into a catch basin.
 - Be sure to follow the City’s requirements for water use and water conservation. For information about water conservation, including rebates, please see: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/water/conservation>
- For information about drought requirements, please see: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/water/drought>
- Consider washing your car at a commercial car wash that recycles water.

For more information, please call: City Environmental Compliance at 831-420-6050, or City Public Works Environmental Project Analyst at 831-420-5160

To report spills or illegal discharges, please call: City Environmental Compliance hotline at 831-420-6046, or 911 (after business hours)

Only Rain Down the Drain!

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