

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE

Taking care of our cars takes a toll on our environment. Motor oil, filters, anti-freeze, and other toxic fluids from our cars leak, spill or are dumped into the street, flowing untreated through the storm drain system to our channels, creeks, bays and oceans. Following few environmentally-friendly tips is all it takes to prevent pollution.

Changing your oil and oil filter:

- Have your oil changed by a professional. If you do it yourself, [recycle your used oil and oil filter](#) at a certified collection center or household hazardous waste site.
- Buy recycled motor oil for your car.
- Clean up leaks and spills with an absorbent materials such as kitty litter.

Draining your radiator:

- Antifreeze, made from the chemical ethylene glycol, is extremely toxic. Drain your radiator into a drip pan to avoid spills, and take the old antifreeze in a sealed container to a [household hazardous waste collection site](#).
- Try a less toxic alternative. Antifreeze made from propylene glycol, manufacturers claim, has a lower freezing point, a higher boiling point and lasts longer.

Washing your car:

- Wash your vehicle at a washing facility that reclaims wash water. This helps in preventing oil, grease and toxic fluids from washing into the street and the storm drain system.
- Use only soaps, cleaners and detergents labeled phosphate free or biodegradable. The safest products for the environment are vegetable based or citrus based soaps.
- Select a site where the wash water can soak into grass, gravel or be diverted to nearby landscaping.
- Divert water to grassy or planted areas. Alternatively, dispose of water into sewer system through toilets or sinks.



Find a nearby oil recycling location:

<http://www.ochealthinfo.com/eh/waste/oil/>

Waste oil collection centers:

North OC <http://www.cypressca.org/home/showdocument?id=1110>

Central OC <http://www.cypressca.org/home/showdocument?id=1114>

South OC <http://www.cypressca.org/home/showdocument?id=1112>

Tips for the Automotive Industry: <http://www.cypressca.org/home/showdocument?id=1100>