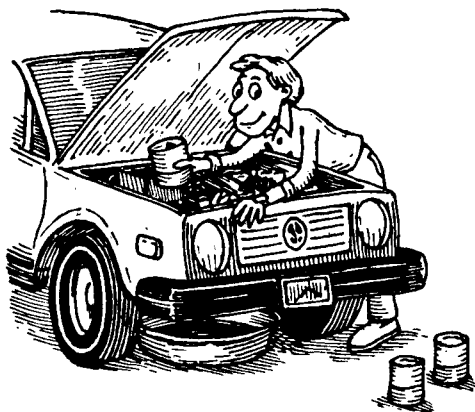


AUTOMOTIVE WASTE *AND THE* DO-IT- YOURSELFER

HOW TO REDUCE, RECYCLE AND
DISPOSE OF AUTOMOTIVE
WASTES PROPERLY AND
AVOID TOXIC RELEASES



2004-2005



Whatcom County
Public Works
Solid Waste Division

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM

- Dumping used motor oil on the ground, over roads, or into storm drains and other water systems is illegal. Heavy metals and other toxins in used oil contaminate soil and pollute water sources, posing a health hazard to wildlife and humans. Used motor oil is the single largest source of oil pollution. One pint of oil can produce a one-acre oil slick.
- Vehicle batteries contain corrosive materials and heavy metals that can contaminate soil and ground or surface water if disposed of improperly.
- Dumping antifreeze on the ground will contaminate soil and surface water sources.
- Nearly all of a car's wastes are toxic to varying degrees, and may present environmental and human health hazards if disposed of improperly. Toxic materials may cause injury or death if ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. None of these materials should end up in a sewer, septic system, storm drain, back yard or empty lot.
- It is illegal to discharge automotive waste directly to surface water, storm drains, or onto the ground, where rainfall can carry it into the ground water or nearby surface water. Penalties of up to \$30,000 per day may be imposed. Property found to be contaminated is difficult to sell without doing expensive cleanup, and the owners of the property may find it difficult to obtain loans against their property once banks are aware of the problem.



Buy Re-refined Motor Oil

Re-refined motor oil is the same quality as virgin oil. Oil does not break down; it simply gets dirty, additives become depleted and chemicals break down. The re-refining process cleans up the used oil and replaces the missing additives.

*Buy re-refined motor oil at The RE Store
(It is sold in bulk, so bring your own container)*

600 W. Holly Street, Bellingham
9-6 Monday-Saturday, 10-5 Sunday
360-647-5921

More reasons to buy re-refined motor oil:

- 100 gallons of used oil can be refined to produce 80 gallons of new lubricating oil.
- The United States Postal Service and National Parks Service use re-refined oil in their vehicle fleets.
- If the oil generated by all do-it-yourself oil changers in America were collected and re-refined, it would provide enough motor oil for over 50 million cars each year. This would reduce our dependence on imported oil, help reduce our trade deficit and provide jobs.

Biodiesel

Biodiesel is a fuel produced from a variety of renewable resources, including waste vegetable oils, cooking oil, soybean oil and animal fats. Biodiesel can be used in virtually any diesel engine, with few or no considerations to be addressed. Biodiesel acts like petroleum diesel, but produces significantly less air pollution, is renewable, is biodegradable and is safer for the environment.

Sources:

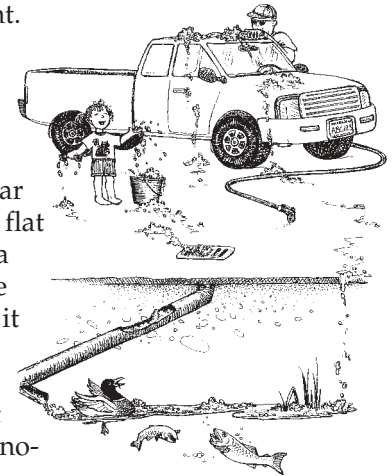
Washington State Recycling Association, www.wsra.net
State of California, www.ciwm.ca.gov

Watershed Friendly Car Washes

Cars that are washed in driveways and parking lots can pollute our streams, rivers and bays. The dirty, soapy water that runs off the car into the gutters goes into the stormwater system. Stormwater, unlike the water that enters the sewer, flows straight into our waterways and does not undergo treatment.

Here are some ways you can reduce the impact of washing your car:

- If you wash your car at home, do it on a flat grass or gravel area that will absorb the wash water before it can run into the storm drain. Also, lessen your impact by using a low- or no-phosphate soap.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash. The soapy water will be recycled or go into the sewer where it can be treated, instead of down the storm drains to creeks and other bodies of water.
- Look for Watershed-Friendly Car Wash signs at local car wash fundraisers. This program is designed to encourage fundraising groups to use a kit that diverts the soapy water from the storm system into the sewer system.



Biodiesel is available at:

Deming Quick Stop

B20 (20% biodiesel mix)

4985 Mount Baker Highway, Deming

6:30 am-10 pm

(360) 592-5633

WHERE TO RECYCLE MOTOR OIL, ANTIFREEZE AND DRAINED OIL FILTERS:

- **Curbside Recycling Collection:** Collects up to 3 gal. motor oil in well-marked, securely sealed plastic bottles, one gallon or smaller. No antifreeze, no oil filters. *Info:* 360-676-5723. *(Point Roberts does not offer this service.)*
- **Disposal of Toxics Antifreeze/Oil Recycling Stations:** All five of the following sites accept up to 5 gal. motor oil or antifreeze, and drained oil filters. Keep oil and antifreeze separate. *Info:* 360-380-4640.
 - Water District #10,** 1010 Lakeview St., east of Bellingham. *Hours:* 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. *Info:* 360-734-9224.
 - Cedarville,** Cedarville Rd., 1/4-mile off Mt. Baker Highway. *Hours:* 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. *Info:* 360-734-3490.
 - Lynden,** 250 Birch Bay-Lynden Road. *Hours:* 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday; 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. 1 gal. see-through containers required; up to 5 containers accepted. *Info:* 360-354-3400.
 - Birch Bay,** 4297 Birch Bay/Lynden Rd. *Hours:* 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. *Info:* 360-398-2025.
 - Disposal of Toxics Facility,** 3505 Airport Drive. *Hours:* 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday and the first Saturday of each month. Closed Holidays. Takes large quantities. *Info:* 360-380-4640.
- **Schuck's Automotive,** 1929 King St.; 4056 Meridian; 4375 Guide Meridian, Bellingham and 1970 Kok Rd., Lynden. Accepts up to 3 gal. motor oil. No antifreeze, no oil filters. *Info:* 360-676-8380.
- **Jiffy Lube,** 1430 Cornwall; 4070 Meridian; 2436 E. Bakerview, Bellingham. Each accepts up to 5 gal. motor oil and drained oil filters. No antifreeze. *Info:* 360-734-9673.
- **Jim & Dave's Repair,** 102 E. Main, Everson. Accepts up to 5 gal. motor oil. No antifreeze, no oil filters. *Info:* 360-966-4440.

Transport oil and antifreeze in separate unbreakable containers with screw tops. Do not mix with water, debris, brake fluid, solvents or other contaminants.

GENERAL TIPS

- Buy only what you need, and substitute less toxic or non-toxic materials when feasible.
- Follow safety precautions and other instructions on the product label.
- Keep all hazardous products out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never pour vehicle waste into storm drains, sewers, septic systems or onto the ground.
- Know where you will store and dispose of materials before beginning a do-it-yourself project. Call the Recycling Hotline at 360-676-5723 for more information.
- Keep all fluids separate and labeled to make proper recycling and disposal easier.
- *All automotive wastes can be reduced by using alternate transportation such as walking, bicycling, carpooling, vanpooling and taking the bus.*

FOR INFORMATION ON:

Safer Alternatives to Hazardous Chemicals
Recycling Hotline 360-676-5723

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
Disposal of Toxics Program 360-380-4640

The information in this brochure is intended for do-it-yourselfers, not for service stations and other businesses.

For information pertaining to small businesses, call:

Reduction Assistance –
Whatcom Co. Health Dept. 360-676-6724

Disposal Information –
Disposal of Toxics Program 360-380-4640

★ You may obtain this information in alternate formats including Braille, large print and audio tape by contacting the Whatcom County Solid Waste Division at 360-676-7695. Please allow up to 14 days for transcription. Individuals with hearing impairments should contact the Washington Relay Service, 1-800-833-6388, or contact the County by e-mail at plempere@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Produced by RE Sources for Whatcom County.

Waste Type	Used Motor Oil	Lead-Acid Batteries	Antifreeze	Gasoline	Transmission Fluid	Solvents and Brake Fluid	Cleaners and Polishes	CFCs or Freon (Air Conditioner)	Tires
Hazard	Oil picks up heavy metals from engine. Petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife and plants.	Lead is a toxic heavy metal. Battery acid is corrosive.	Contains ethylene glycol, which is toxic. Animals are attracted to its sweet taste.	Flammable and toxic. Contains benzene, a cancer-causing chemical that can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin.	Transmission fluid contains petroleum distillates and is ignitable.	Products containing chlorinated solvents are very hazardous. Brake fluid is combustible.	Most contain toxic ingredients. Some contain phosphates, which promote the growth of algae in lakes and rivers.	These gases are harmful to the Earth's protective ozone layer.	Tire piles attract rodents, mosquitoes & other pests, & are a fire hazard. Toxics are released to air & water when tires burn.
Storage	Store in a sealed metal or plastic container with a tight fitting lid.	Store upright in a sturdy, leak-proof, plastic container.	Store in the original plastic containers.	Use up gasoline or, if you do store gasoline, use a gas stabilizer to prevent waste. Store in approved containers, away from living area, ignition sources and direct sunlight.	Store separately in original containers.	Store in original containers in a cool, dry location.	Store in original containers.	N/A	Store outside in area protected from fire or rain. Local regulations may limit the number you can store.
How to Avoid Spills and Releases	Put large drip pan under crankcase oil opening. Check for oil leaks regularly & repair them.	Store upright. Place a leaking battery in a sturdy, leak-proof, plastic container.	Use large enough pan when flushing radiator. Repair radiator leaks.	Don't overfill your tank.	Follow proper filling and draining techniques.	Follow instructions for proper use to avoid spills.	Use appropriate amounts according to instructions on the container.	Service your air conditioner regularly. Repair leaks.	Avoid storing a quantity that could become a fire hazard. Tire fires generate toxic smoke & runoff.
How To Clean Up Spills	Clean up immediately with cat litter or absorbent pads. Cleanup materials may be taken to the Disposal of Toxics facility.	Neutralize small acid spills (under 2 gallons) using powdered limestone, calcium carbonate, cement, or baking soda.	Small spills may be wiped up and discarded in the garbage. Clean-up materials may be taken to the Disposal of Toxics facility.	Clean up spills immediately with cat litter or absorbent pads. Clean-up materials may be taken to the Disposal of Toxics facility.	Clean up immediately with cat litter or absorbent pads. Clean-up materials may be taken to the Disposal of Toxics facility.	Absorb spills. Discard contaminated absorbent pads in the garbage or take to the Disposal of Toxics facility.	Absorb spills and place contaminated absorbent pads in the garbage or take to the Disposal of Toxics facility. See label instructions.	N/A	N/A
Recycling or Disposal – Call the Disposal of Toxics Program 360-380-4640	Recycle through curbside programs or at sites listed on other side. Drain oil filter overnight into drip pan to remove oil residue. It is illegal to use oil as a dust suppressant or weed killer.	Recyclable. Set out with curbside recycling or exchange your old battery when purchasing a replacement. Disposal of vehicle batteries in garbage is illegal.	Recycle through the Disposal of Toxics Program (see other side of brochure). Do not pour on the ground or flush in a septic tank system. Use professional services that recycle antifreeze.	Use up clean gas. Take contaminated gas to the Disposal of Toxics Program. Do not use as a solvent, cleaner, paint thinner or weed killer.	Recycle used automotive transmission fluid (ATF) at the Disposal of Toxics Program. Place in an unbreakable, sealed container labeled "Used ATF."	Use up according to instructions or share with someone who will. Keep separate from used oil. Take used fluids to the Disposal of Toxics Program.	Use up according to instructions or give to someone who will. Take unusable products to the Disposal of Toxics Program.	Freon is recyclable. Service at a service station that collects and recycles freon.	Some worn tires can be retreaded. To ensure a tire will be retreaded, try not to wear it down beyond the wear bars before replacement.
Safer Alternatives or Reduction Methods	None; however, using re-refined oil saves energy and resources. Keeping your car tuned reduces oil use. See panel for more information.	Purchasing longer life batteries will reduce the need for replacement and disposal.	Propylene glycol-based antifreeze is less toxic. Check with your recycler to see whether it might be a contaminant in ethylene glycol recycling.	Carpool, bus, walk and bicycle. Plan for efficient vehicle use. Properly inflated tires reduce gasoline consumption. See panel for more information on biodiesel.	Reduce use by repairing leaks.	Non-toxic and non-flammable alternatives to degreasers and solvents are available. Use water-based substitutes whenever possible.	A variety of non-toxic cleaners are available. Use the least toxic product that will accomplish the job.	Buy a car that uses R134A in the air conditioner. Or buy a car without an air conditioner and open your windows.	Keep properly inflated. Buy long-lasting and, when possible, retread tires.
Toxic Trivia	Used motor oil is the single largest source of oil pollution. The 180 million gallons of used oil spilled by do-it-yourselfers each year in the U.S. is 16 times that spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska.	WA state law requires vendors of vehicle batteries to accept used batteries for recycling in exchange for new batteries offered for purchase.	Children and pets are attracted to antifreeze because it tastes sweet. They can be poisoned by drinking improperly disposed of antifreeze.	Americans burn an estimated 200 million gallons of gasoline each day. As a result, 4 billion pounds of carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming, are emitted into the atmosphere.	Both transmission fluid (ATF) and motor oil contain up to 95% refined petroleum and similar additives.	Contaminating used oil with these substances could change it from a readily recyclable resource into a hazardous waste.	Use a commercial car wash, any of which will properly handle wash water. Washing your car & degreasing auto parts at home sends detergent and other contaminants directly into surface and ground water.	The 1990 U.S. Clean Air Act Amendment requires all auto air conditioner service stations to retrieve and recycle CFCs.	Tires take at least 800 years to decompose. Accidental burning of tire piles creates toxic fumes and releases large quantities of spilled oil. Also, unwanted tires often harbor mosquitos, which can spread West Nile Virus.