



CLEAN WATER CAN START WITH A CLEAN CAR

Did you know that cars are one of the top polluters of our waterways? Routine vehicle maintenance is critical in reducing stormwater pollution. While on the road, fluids from your vehicle may leak onto our highways. When it rains, these pollutants are washed into our local waterways and can be harmful to aquatic organisms and pose a danger to those using our local water bodies recreationally. Here are five ways you can change your vehicle maintenance and transportation habits to reduce pollution.

Commercial Car Wash

Washing your car at home can allow pollutants such as grease, dirt, oil, metals, and chemicals from soap and cleansers to flow untreated directly into the storm drain. Even if you use biodegradable soaps, the oxygen these products require to break down depletes our waterways of the oxygen fish and other organisms need to survive. Instead, wash vehicles at a full or self-service car wash where used water is collected, recycled and treated.

Recycle Used Motor Oil

Just one gallon of used motor oil can contaminate up to one million gallons of our freshwater. That's enough water to supply 50 people for one year. If you do car maintenance at home, use a sealed container to take used motor oil, antifreeze, filters, and any other automobile fluids to a gas station or oil changing site with a recycling program. Locate certified used oil collection sites that accept your oil and car fluid here:

<http://www.funnelhead.com/certified-oil.html>

Tarp Your Load

Warmer weather means you might be spending more time camping, fishing, and going on road trips. Make sure to properly secure your loads to prevent your items from ending up on our roadways. When securing your load, use **heavy-duty straps** or a **cargo net** specifically designed for fastening vehicle cargo.

Collect Your Litter

Consider adding a designated litter bag in your vehicle to encourage yourself and passengers to properly dispose of trash. This prevents items from being tossed onto the road and polluting our local environment and waterways.

Switch It Up

Change up your daily transportation routine by riding BART or carpooling with friends. Fewer cars on the road can lead to a reduction in traffic and vehicle pollution. If you're feeling more active, you can take a walk or ride a bike when your destination is nearby.

Regardless of how you travel, make sure you are doing your part to reduce stormwater pollution. Simple acts like washing your car at a commercial car wash, keeping a litter bag on hand, and disposing of oil properly can help protect our waters. Visit www.cccleanwater.org for more information and tips to help you protect waterways and keep the water clean in Contra Costa County.