

Automotive Fluids



Automotive fluids - including motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluids, degreasers and solvents - are hazardous wastes. When these chemicals come in contact with the ground, they must be cleaned up immediately to prevent them from entering the storm drain system. You can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the Best Management Practices outlined in this Fact Sheet.

Leaking Vehicles

If your vehicle is leaking fluids, please make repairs as soon as possible. A short-term, immediate solution is to place a 2-3 inch deep oil drip pan with absorbent materials under your vehicle wherever it is parked. The drip pan must be maintained and kept with the vehicle until the leak can be repaired. Until the repair is made, you must capture the leak and prevent fluids from reaching the ground.

Proper Cleaning Methods

- ◆ Spills shall be cleaned up immediately and prevented from entering the storm drain system. It is best to use dry methods to clean spills.
- ◆ Keep a spill cleanup kit appropriate for the type of material stored with adequate supplies to respond to the largest potential spill.
- ◆ Use dry cleanup methods such as rags, a vacuum or absorbents (cat litter, sand, etc.) to soak up liquid spills. Use a hard bristled broom to work the absorbent into the spill.
- ◆ Sweep up absorbent into a sealable container and contact the Household Hazardous Materials Program at (858) 694-7000 for proper disposal information. Do not leave this material on the ground.



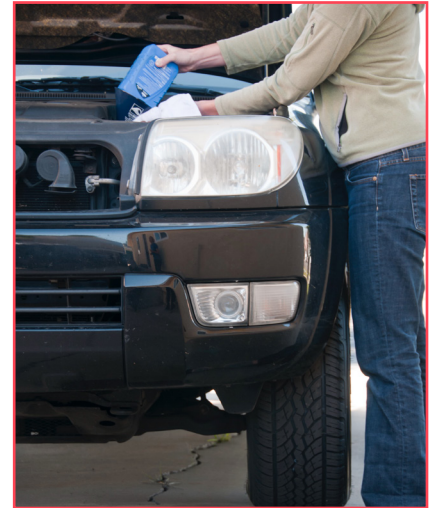
STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to discharge pollutants from automobiles such as motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, degreasers, and solvents into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Maintenance and Repair

When making repairs or performing maintenance on your vehicle:

- ◆ Locate the nearest storm drain and take steps to protect it from potential automotive fluid spills.
- ◆ Before beginning work, protect the ground from potential fluid spills by using drip pans, drop cloths or absorbent mats, as needed.
- ◆ Use a funnel when changing automotive fluids.
- ◆ Collect used automotive fluids and materials in sealable containers.
- ◆ Clearly label and store containers in a secured, covered location and out of contact with water until they can be properly disposed.
- ◆ It is illegal to make vehicle repairs in the street, except in an emergency (SDMC §86.0137(b)).
- ◆ **Non-operational vehicles** – drain fluids prior to storage to prevent spills and leaks that could contaminate soil, stain pavement or contaminate runoff into the storm drain system.

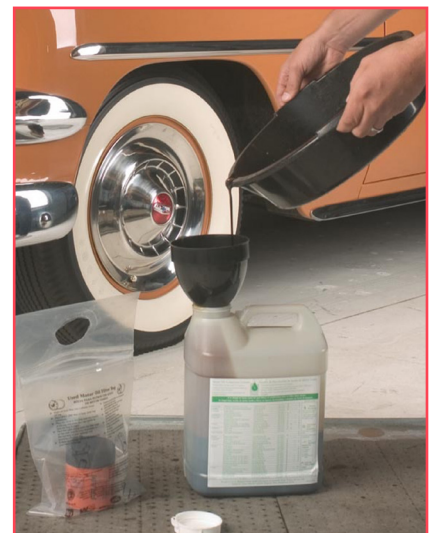


Hazardous Waste Disposal

City residents can dispose of automotive fluids, such as transmission and brake fluids, degreasers and solvents, by making an appointment to drop them off at the Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility located at the Miramar Landfill. To make an appointment, call (858) 694-7000. Motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, oil soaked absorbents or rags, and non-leaking auto batteries are accepted at most automotive retailers as well as the Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility and at City of San Diego Used Oil and Filter Collection Events.

To learn more about upcoming collection events, visit: sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/events/usedoil.shtml.

Businesses located within the City of San Diego must contact the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health for disposal information: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/hazmat.html>.



Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants - including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids - all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

