

STORMWATER BASICS

When it rains, it drains. Stormwater runoff in Colorado Springs is not treated, but rather goes directly into our local waterways...along with any other pollutants it collects along the way. This dirty water can harm people, animals, and plants. We all need to ensure a clean water future by preventing pollution before it happens.



This storm drain carries rainwater (and pollutants) into our waterways.

PROBLEM VEHICLE POLLUTANTS

- ◆ Antifreeze can kill or injure pets, birds, fish, and other wildlife
- ◆ 1 gallon of used motor oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh Water.
- ◆ Used motor oil is the largest single source of pollution in lakes, streams, and rivers

This brochure focuses on proper disposal of oil and other vehicle fluids. Read more and learn how to help keep our water clean.

Report spills and dumping to the
Spill Hotline
719-491-6096

OIL AND AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS

Automobiles leave oil, antifreeze, grease, metals, and other fluids on streets and driveways. These contaminants are carried into our waterways with each storm. Take the following steps to prevent water pollution:

Keep it Clean

Use ground cloths, drip pans, kitty litter, or cardboard under your vehicle if it leaks or if you are doing engine work. Clean up spills immediately. Collect all used oil and other fluids in containers with tight fitting lids. Recycle your used antifreeze and motor oil. Do not mix different engine fluids.

Only Rain Down the Drain

Never dispose of oil or other auto fluids down the storm drain, on the ground, or into a ditch or culvert, as they will pollute our waters.

Carwash with Care

Wash cars on an unpaved surface where dirty water won't flow to a driveway, street, gutter or storm drain. Empty soapy water bucket into a sink or toilet.

Minimize soap and water use and use a biodegradable soap. Alternatively, wash your car at a professional car wash where rinse water is recycled.

DID YOU KNOW...

Every year, 192 million gallons of used motor oil is spilled into US waters. This is 17 times the amount spilled in 1989 by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska.

CLEANUP GUIDANCE

For Small Spills:

Place an absorbent material (such as cat litter) on the spill to allow it to soak up the oil.

Sweep up and dispose of in the garbage.



For Large Spills:

Larger spills that reach an inlet need to be professionally cleaned. The party responsible for the spill will be required to hire an environmental cleaning company to remediate the spill.





ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!

RECYCLE YOUR AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS

El Paso and Teller County residents only
(no commercial establishments)
can recycle 20 gallons of
used motor oil.

Contact for more info:

**El Paso County Household
Hazardous Waste Facility**
3255 Akers Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80922
(719) 520-7878

Additionally, many local auto service centers
will accept used motor oil for
recycling. Check with your local shop.

Additional Contact Information

City Engineering/Public Works
(719) 385-5918

STORMWATER NEEDS YOU... MORE WAYS TO HELP:

There are many ways to help protect the wa-
ter in our community as well as for those
downstream. Here are a few tips to keep in
mind:

- ◆ Minimize hard surfaces and keep them clean
- ◆ Prevent pollution, remember: *Only Rain Down the Drain!*
- ◆ Monitor your curb/catch basin or ditch by removing sand, grass clippings, debris and litter
- ◆ Pick up after your pet
- ◆ Use the right amount of fertilizer at the right time (not before a rain storm!)
- ◆ Dispose of hazardous materials properly
- ◆ Sweep grass clippings back onto the lawn, or compost them
- ◆ Put trash, including cigarette butts, in its place...not in a creek or storm drain.



**KEEP IT
CLEAN...
BECAUSE
WE'RE
ALL
DOWN-
STREAM!**

Learn more at:
<https://coloradosprings.gov/stormwater>

Proper Disposal: Oil and Automotive Fluids



Report Spills & Dumping
For Clean Waterways

719-385-5980
<https://coloradosprings.gov/stormwater>