

CLEAN WATER BEGINS AT HOME



AUTOMOBILE MAINTENANCE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We “weekend mechanics” enjoy the cost savings from changing the oil or antifreeze, topping off the battery with water, and generally making our car perform its best ourselves. The following will help minimize pollution that could result when you service your car:

- Use care in draining and collecting antifreeze to prevent accidental spills. Use pans to catch spills. (Spilled antifreeze can be deadly to cats, dogs, and other pets.)
- Service your cars on concrete, asphalt or over a plastic tarp for easy clean up of spills.
- Recycle all oils, antifreeze, solvents, and batteries. Many local car parts dealers and gas stations accept used oil. Used oil can also be recycled with your curbside recycling. Make sure oil is placed in a clean plastic milk jug with a tight screw-top lid.
- Never dump automotive fluids or solvents on the ground, in a storm drain, street gutter or water body. Eventually, they will make their way to local surface waters or groundwater, including the water we drink.
- Do not mix wastes. For example, chlorinated solvents in some carburetor cleaners can contaminate a huge tank of used oil, making it unsuitable for recycling. Put waste in separate containers that are labeled and stored properly.
- To dispose of oil filters, punch a hole in the top and let them drain for 24 hours. A large funnel in the top of your oil storage container will come in handy. After draining, wrap the filter in plastic and put it with your regular garbage.
- Keep a bag of kitty litter on hand to absorb spills. Sprinkle a thick layer on the spill to absorb it, then put the used litter in a plastic bag and dispose of it in your garbage. Take care not to leave kitty litter out in the rain; it will form a sticky goo that is hard to clean up.
- If you are doing body work outside, be sure to use a tarp to catch material resulting from grinding, sanding, and painting. Dispose of this waste by double bagging it in plastic and putting it in your garbage.
- For more information call (360) 342-5070 or check out our website at www.cityofbg.org

