

# Basic Car Maintenance Will Extend the Life of Your Vehicle While Protecting Water Resources

Car motor oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife, and plants. When it rains, oil and gas that leak from vehicles onto roads and driveways are washed into storm drains that flow directly to lakes and streams. Routine car maintenance can extend the life of your vehicle while reducing water pollution. The simple tips found below will help to improve gas mileage, reduce car exhaust emissions, and cut down on expensive repairs. Eliminating vehicle leaks will also protect water quality and fish habitat.



## CAR MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Change your vehicle motor oil on a regular basis.
- Check for oil leaks and fix them promptly.
- Keep your car well-tuned to reduce oil use.
- Never “top off” gasoline when filling your tank. Gasoline spills flow into local waters during rain storms.
- Use ground cloths or drip pans when working on your car engine. Clean up spills immediately by using cat litter or other absorbent material.
- Collect used oil in containers with tight fitting lids. Do not mix different engine fluids.
- Never pour oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground, or in a ditch.
- Recycle used motor oil. Check with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for service or retail establishments that accept recycled oil ([www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8485.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8485.html))
- Check with your municipal or county office or the NYSDEC website listed above for information on the availability of motor oil recycling programs.