

Water Log

Most "Oil Spills" Happen in Driveways & Parking Lots, NOT the Ocean

Used motor oil is the single largest source of oil pollution in our lakes, rivers and streams. Just one quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of drinking water. Most oil pollution comes from leaky cars, not oil rigs.

Motor oil that leaks onto the ground, is dumped into storm drains, or is tossed in the trash pollutes our water. One pint of oil can make a one-acre oil slick in water. Oil that enters our lakes, rivers and streams harms birds, aquatic life and water plants needed for ecosystem health. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into the nation's waters.



Used oil from lawn mowers, motorcycles, boats, jet skis, tractors, ATVs and weed eaters can cause as many problems as oil from cars. Oil is not alone. Other automotive fluids, such as antifreeze, solvents and gasoline are also harmful to the environment when not disposed of correctly.

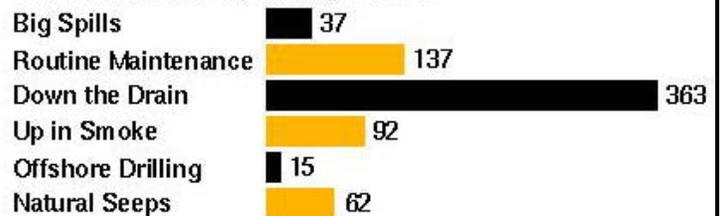
Tip

Used motor oil never wears out – it just gets dirty but can be cleaned and used again if recycled.

Kitty litter can be used to absorb oil spills. Let it clump, then sweep it up.

Many oil disposal sites also sell motor oil. So you only have to make one stop.

Millions of gallons of oil that enters into the oceans worldwide each year, by source





Check for Oil Leaks

There are many simple ways you can help keep automotive fluids out of our water:

- Recycle your used automotive fluids at used oil collection centers.
- Request recycled motor oil when you get your oil changed. Recycled motor oil must meet the same standards as non-recycled motor oil and costs the same.
- Cars that leak fluids are a big source of water pollution. Have your car checked for any leaks. Clean up all spills, drips and leaks.
- Recycle and re-use oil filters.
- If you change your own oil, get a reusable oil container. Drain used oil carefully into the container and recycle it.
- Use ground cloths or drip pans under your car or motorcycle if you have leaks or are doing engine work.

Greenville County can help you become a Pollution Solution

Under the federal Clean Water Act, DHEC and Greenville County implement pollution prevention plans and perform public outreach education.

Greenville County can:

- ◆ Provide a place to recycle your used automotive fluids. The Solid Waste Division recycles fluids at several locations throughout the County.
- ◆ Supply oil recycling pans during our yearly giveaway.
- ◆ Supply free educational signs, posters & brochures.
- ◆ Set up exhibit booths at HOA events
- ◆ Present information at HOA meetings



If your HOA is interested in participating in a model program to keep your neighborhood "waste free" please contact the Education Department at jcward@greenvillecounty.org or 864-467-2755 ext. 103.



For more information, visit www.greenvillecounty.org/Soil_and_Water/carowners.asp or visit us on Facebook.