



The City of San Diego

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Automotive Fluids

When it rains or when water flows out of yards or over pavement, it flows directly into storm drains. Many people mistakenly believe this water gets "cleaned" before reaching waterways. The sewer system and the storm water conveyance systems (drains, inlets, and catch basins) are separate; they are not connected. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into the storm water conveyance system goes untreated directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination. Releasing pollutants into the storm water collection system is a violation of the City Municipal Code, (43.0301). Whether you are at home, work, or play there are ways that residents and businesses alike can "Think Blue" and prevent pollutants from reaching our waterways.

Most of us don't think of our car as a source of beach pollution-- but it is. The reality is vehicles are a necessity today, and we don't have a lot of choice about that. However, we can be more environmentally responsible and choose the method(s) of caring for and repairing our vehicles in a more ocean friendly way.

Many automotive fluids - **Motor Oil, Anti-Freeze, Transmission Fluids, De-Greasers, Solvents** and the like are hazardous wastes. They are **hazardous** to you and me **and toxic to our environment. No one wants to swim in them.** So, make sure to prevent them from entering our storm water conveyance system.

Automotive Maintenance and Repair: When making repairs or performing minor maintenance on your vehicle, make sure you have protected the sidewalk, curb, street and gutter from repair fluids before beginning work. Identify the nearest storm drain and take steps to protect it from the fluids.

When changing fluids, collect the substance and other automotive materials in seal able containers. Mark the containers. Never mix different substances in one container. Store the containers in a secure location out of reach of children, animals and out of contact with water.

Where to Take the Pollutants:

Motor oil, Oil filters, anti-freeze and non-leaking auto batteries are accepted at the City of San Diego **Used Oil and Filters Collection Events. Call (619) 235-2105** for event information.

For other automotive fluids such as transmission and brake fluids, de-greasers, solvents and the like, call the City's **Household Hazardous Materials Program (619) 235-2111**, to make an appointment to drop-off the pollutants.

Leaking Vehicles: If your vehicle is leaking fluids, please make repairs as soon as possible. A short-term, immediate solution is to put an oil drip pan with absorbent materials under your vehicle wherever it is parked (work, home and other destinations). Until the repair is made, you must capture the leak and prevent fluids from reaching the street or gutter where it can be carried into the storm drain conveyance system and into our waterways and beaches.

Other Fact sheets that may pertain to your activities: *Cleaning Impervious Surfaces (High Pressure Washing); Be A Clean Water Leader: Control, Contain & Capture; Spills; and Car Washing*

Adopt these behaviors and help Clean up our beaches and bays.

Think Blue, San Diego. For more information, call (619) 235-1000, or log on to: www.thinkbluesd.org

**Think
&
Act
Blue**

