

The Problem

Many individuals prefer to, and often enjoy, performing their own vehicle maintenance: changing the oil or brake fluid, installing a new battery, or washing and cleaning the car on a summer day. This maintenance is not limited to cars. We work on our trucks, boats, RV's, snowmobiles, lawnmowers - all of those motorized tools and toys we own today.

Why are these common maintenance practices a consideration in a stormwater management program? The maintenance work is not a problem, but the by-products that result from this work, if not properly disposed of, can add significant amounts of pollutants into our storm drain system. Storm drain systems do not flow to a treatment plant, rather water traveling through a storm drain is released directly into our creeks, our natural drainages, and the North Platte River.

The by-products of vehicle maintenance: (oil, grease, brake fluid, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, antifreeze, etc.), all contain hydrocarbons, trace metals, and other pollutants that are harmful to fish and birds, aquatic vegetation, wildlife and humans. Hydrocarbons can even kill the trees and bushes growing along the stream banks, which can cause them to erode.

Washing cars, trucks, boats, and other motorized vehicles in the driveway and allowing the water to run into the street and then into the storm drain transports many of the same pollutants: hydrocarbons, trace metals, and nutrients.



The Solution

To reduce the impact of car wash runoff, use only biodegradable soap. Wash the vehicle on gravel, grass or other permeable surface that allows the water to be dispersed and absorbed slowly.

Collect, contain, and recycle used motor oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, grease and other vehicle fluids. Purchase only the quantity that you can easily use to avoid prolonged storage. Discard only the completely empty automotive product containers in the trash.

WATERSHED COALITION PARTNERS

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For Stormwater Information

visit www.casperstormwater.com or www.casperwy.gov

Call the Stormwater Hotline: 307-235-8283

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