

What's the Problem With Automotive Chemicals?

- ◇ Dumping used motor oil on the ground, over roads, or into storm drains and other water systems is illegal. Heavy metals and other toxins in used oil contaminate soil and pollute water sources posing a health hazard to wildlife and humans. Using motor oil is the single largest source of oil pollution.
- ◇ Vehicle batteries contain corrosive materials and heavy metals that can contaminate soil and ground or surface water if disposed of improperly.
- ◇ Dumping antifreeze will also contaminate soil and water sources. Pets and children are attracted its sweet taste, which can lead to poisoning.
- ◇ Nearly all of a car's wastes are toxic to varying degrees and may present environmental, human and animal health hazards if disposed of improperly. Toxic materials may cause injury or death if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. None of these materials should end up in a sewer, septic system, storm drain, back yard or empty lot.

Helpful Solutions

Buy Re-refined Motor Oil

Re-refined motor oil is the same quality as virgin oil. The re-refining process cleans up the used oil and replaces the additives that were used, generating 8 gallons of new oil for every 100 gallons of used oil. Re-refined motor oil also reduces the dependence on imported oil and helps reduce our trade deficit and provide jobs.

R-Friendly Car Washes

Cars that are washed in driveways and parking lots can pollute our local streams, lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound.

Here are some ways you can reduce the impact of washing your car:

- ◇ If you wash your car at home, do it on a flat grass or gravel area that will absorb the wash water. Also lessen the impact by using a low-or no-phosphate soap.
- ◇ Take your car to a commercial car wash.



General Tips

Leftover household products that contain toxic ingredients require special disposal to avoid harming people and the environment.

Household hazardous waste should never be poured down the drain, onto ground, into storm sewers, or thrown in the trash.



Keep all hazardous products out of the reach of children.

Follow safety precautions and other instructions on the labels.

Buy the least toxic product available.