

Vehicle Washing

Detergents used while washing your vehicle can cause stormwater pollution. Use the following tips to reduce water usage and to reduce your impact on the environment.

- Use a commercial car wash facility. Water from these facilities is plumbed into the sanitary sewer or recycled on site. They also collect any grease and metal dust (like copper from brake pads) that comes off your vehicle during washing.
- Wash your vehicle on grass or landscaped areas. This reduces the amount of water discharged to the storm sewer system.
- Make sure not to wash your vehicle on surfaces without any ground cover (i.e. bare dirt) this may cause sediment to run into the storm sewer system.
- Do not use harsh chemicals. Degreasers, solvents, and other chemicals can cause stormwater contamination.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Keep your vehicles in good repair to prevent automotive fluids from leaking onto the streets.
- If you have a leaky vehicle, fix leaks as soon as possible and use a drip pan to collect leaks until the vehicle is repaired.
- Use a drip pan or drop cloth when changing motor oil and all other automotive fluids.
- If you have a spill, use old towels, kitty litter or sand to absorb automotive fluids. Sweep up used absorbent materials immediately and put them in the trash.
- Take all used oil to a used oil recycling facility. Call 1-800-CLEANUP for the location nearest your home. Many auto parts stores offer oil recycling services.
- Save used oil and other used automotive fluids and dispose of them at a household hazardous waste collection event in your community.
- All major vehicle maintenance and repair should be performed at a licensed and environmentally responsible auto repair facility.

Storm drains are found in our streets, parking lots, Highways and more. You probably walk by a few of them each day, but just don't think much about them. However, stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows over parking lots, streets and other impervious surfaces. Find out how you can help us protect our water by using these simple pollution prevention tips and ideas.



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For more information or to report a stormwater violation please
visit our Public Works Webpage @ <http://www.elmirageaz.gov/8/Public-Works>