

WASTE ENGINE OIL MANAGEMENT

Information targeting water quality issues from the Phase II Stormwater Management Communication Committee.

Marketing Season: All

Prevent used engine oil from polluting our water ways

According to the American Petroleum Institute, more than 50 percent of all motorists change their oil themselves. For those do-it-yourself oil changers, one of the most important steps of changing your vehicle's engine oil is the proper disposal of the used oil that you have drained from your vehicle.

If you pour used motor oil on the ground, into a storm drain or throw it in your trash can (even in a sealed container), you are improperly disposing of your used motor oil. According to the U.S. EPA, more than 40 percent of our nation's oil pollution comes from the improper disposal of used motor oil by do-it-yourselfers. Used motor oil is highly toxic to the environment and it is of the utmost importance that it is disposed of in a safe fashion.

One gallon of motor oil can:

- Create an oil slick on surface water up to 8 acres in size
- Contaminate 1 million gallons of freshwater (one year's supply of water for 50 people)
- Render a 4-acre area of soil unusable for planting for decades

Do-it-yourselfers should transfer used oil to sealed container and consult your local garage about options for safe disposal. Chances are that a garage in your area will take the oil off your hands and arrange for it to be recycled or safely disposed of. To search for a recycling location near you, visit the following web site: www.earth911.com.