

WHEN YOUR CAR LEAKS OIL ON THE STREET, REMEMBER IT'S NOT JUST LEAKING OIL ON THE STREET



Leaking oil goes from car to street. It is then washed from street into the storm drain and into our lakes and rivers. Now imagine the number of cars in the area and you can imagine the amount of oil that finds its way from leaky gaskets into our water. So please, fix oil leaks.

CLEAN WATER IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of water pollution like Industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens and failing septic tanks. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too and that adds up to pollution solution!

Why do we need clean water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water – and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers and ground waters clean.

What's the problem with motor oil?

Oil does not dissolve in water. It lasts a long time and sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife and plants. One pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field. Oil that leaks from our cars onto our roads and driveways is washed into storm drains, and then usually flows directly to a lake or river. Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in our lakes, streams and rivers. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used motor oil each year into our waters. This is 16 times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska.

Text and photo courtesy of the Puget Sound Action Team and Water Quality Consortium.

CLEAN WATER TIP:

How can you use and change your motor oil and help keep our waters clean?

Here are some options.

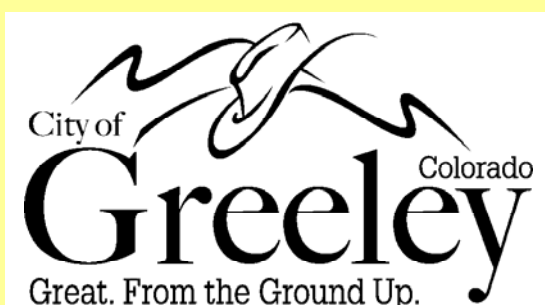
Stop drips. Check for oil leaks regularly and fix them promptly. Keep your car tuned to reduce oil use.

Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work. Clean up spills immediately. Collect all used oil in containers with fitting lids. Do not mix different engine fluids.

Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground or into a ditch.

Recycle used motor oil. Many auto supply stores accept used oil, look for the "Recycle" sticker in the window.

Buy recycled (re-refined) motor oil in your car.



Stormwater Management Division
To report Illegal Dumping Call:
(970) -336-4074
For more information, visit
www.greeleygov.com/stormwater