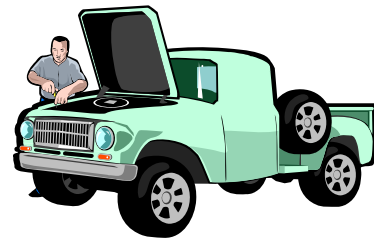


# Best Management Practices: Keeping our Water Clean

## Vehicle Maintenance



Many common vehicle maintenance and repair routines can contribute to local water pollution. There are steps you can take to protect streams and rivers that are a source of our drinking water, and recreational opportunities.

### What You Can Do:

- 💧 **Cleaning Auto Parts**—Scrape parts with a brush or use a bake oven rather than liquid cleaners. Arrange drip pans, drying racks, and drain boards so that fluids are directed back into the sink or the fluid holding tank. Use nontoxic cleaning products.
- 💧 **Preventing Leaks and Spills**—Place drip pans underneath the vehicle to capture fluids. Use absorbent cleaning agents instead of water to clean work areas. Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as unused gas, transmission and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage. Use a funnel when pouring liquids (like lubricants or motor oil) and place a tray underneath to catch spills. Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers.
- 💧 **Proper Disposal of Regulated Waste**—Recycle solvents, oil, used oil filters, anti-freeze, batteries, lubricants, and metal filings collected from grinding/polishing auto parts. Contact a regulated waste hauler to dispose of saturated absorbents.
- 💧 **Proper Storage of Regulated Waste**—Keep your liquid wastes segregated. Many fluids can be recycled via regulated waste disposal companies if they are not mixed. Store all materials under cover or inside to prevent contamination by rainwater.
- 💧 **Cleaning Up Spills**—Follow your hazardous materials response plan, as filed with your local fire department or other hazardous materials authority. Be sure that all employees are aware of the plan and are capable of implementing each phase of the plan. Use dry methods for spill cleanup (sweeping, absorbent materials, etc.). **NEVER** hose down spills!
- 💧 **Metal Polishing and Grinding**—Keep a bin under your lathe or grinder to capture metal filings. Send uncontaminated filings to a scrap metal recycler for reclamation.
- 💧 **Washing Vehicles**—Use a designated bay where wash water will drain into the sanitary sewer. Vehicle wash water should never be allowed to drain into storm drains or drainage ditches.



For more information, visit the RRSEP web site at [www.rivanna-stormwater.org](http://www.rivanna-stormwater.org).