

Clean Water is Important To All of Us

In recent years, sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced—that's great! Now the greatest source of water pollution (60 percent) comes from everyday things like cars leaking oil; fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens; pet waste; residential car washing; and failing septic systems. All these seemingly harmless sources add up to a BIG pollution problem. BUT each of us can do small things to help clean up our water — and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why Do We Need Clean Water?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water — and all of us play a role in keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground waters clean.

Your actions can help
keep our water clean.
Find out how and
spread the word!



For more information or to learn more about protecting our water, visit the links below or contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

www.MyWatersheds.org
www.PollutionIsntPretty.org

(517) 393-0342



**GASOLINE
WEED KILLER
ROAD SALT
NAIL POLISH
FERTILIZER
SEWAGE
PET WASTE
SOIL EROSION
MOTOR OIL**



**POLLUTION
ISN'T PRETTY.**

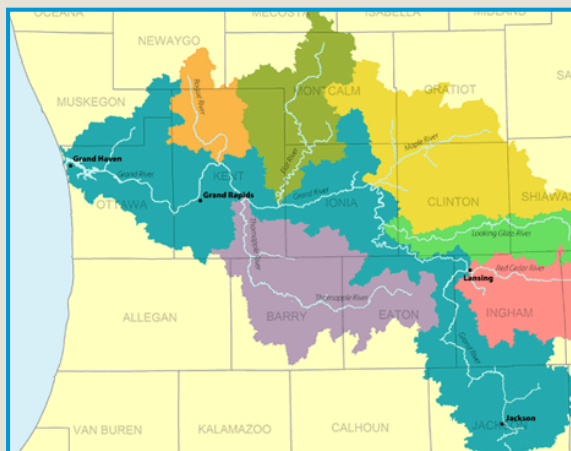
Motor Oil Management

What's the Problem with Motor Oil?

Most oil pollution is different than the pictures you see of oil covered beaches following a major spill or accident. In fact, poorly maintained vehicles are one of the biggest causes of oil pollution in our waterways. Leaking automotive fluid goes from car to street, street to storm drain, and from the drain to our rivers, lakes, and streams. With over 250 million cars on the road, small spills add up to big problems.

It's estimated that Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year. That's 16 times the amount spilled during the Exxon Valdez disaster! By quickly fixing leaks, you can help protect both your vehicle and our water resources.

Help Keep Our Water Clean



In the Grand River watershed, pollutants on the ground eventually make their way to Lake Michigan! Protect the Great Lakes by regularly checking for automotive leaks and fixing them promptly.



One pint of used motor oil can make a slick larger than a football field.

Together We Can Stop Water Pollution at the Source

- Stop drips. Check for 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 tight fitting lids; and do not mix different engine fluids.
- Never dispose of oil or other fluids down the storm drain, on the ground, or into a ditch.
- Recycle used motor oil. Many auto parts stores and gas stations will accept used oil.
- Buy recycled (re-refined) motor oil to use in your car.

To find out more about where you can take used oil for recycling in your community, visit www.MyWatersheds.org!

Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping them directly into our shared surface water resources.