

How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices or BMP's are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMP's in this brochure.

What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-4311.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go online to: <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>

Municipal Utilities Department
Environmental Services Section
P.O. Box 5002
Tempe, AZ 85280



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Environmentally Friendly Vehicle Care



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Each year millions of gallons of used motor oil are disposed of improperly by being spilled or poured onto the ground or directly down storm drains. Did you know that one pint of oil can cause an oil slick that will cover an area the size of a football field?

Here are some best management practices to help you reduce water pollution while maintaining your vehicle:

- Inspect and maintain your car regularly to prevent leaks.
- Use sawdust or kitty litter to clean up leaks and spills. If used, sweep up and dispose in the trash. Never hose down spills into the gutter.
- Don't dump oil or antifreeze in the streets or drains.
- Wash your car on your lawn or gravel, not on paved areas or use a commercial car wash where the water is recycled and treated before being sent to the sewer.



Changing Fluids

- Using a clean pan to collect any waste fluids is essential to keeping spills down to a minimum.
- Use funnels or pumps when handling liquid products or wastes to avoid spills.
- Use plastic tarps or drip pans when working on your car or when it's leaking to prevent water pollution.

Cleaning and Degreasing

- Read labels carefully and use as directed.
- Use non-flammable, more biodegradable alternatives (citrus based solvents used in rinse water can be drained down a sink or toilet, but not a storm drain).
- If you are unable to contain rinse water, then go to the nearest parts store or service shop to have parts cleaned.
- See your local car service facility to find out if they treat engine wastewater and dispose of wasted water there.
- Whenever possible, use rags instead of water when you're cleaning.
- Recycle your used parts, fluids, and filters.
- Choose a work area on a flat concrete surface where spills can be easily cleaned up.

Disposal Options for Vehicle Fluids

- Used oil can be refined to the same quality as unused oil.
- Dispose of radiator fluid properly (do not pour down drain, sink, gutter, or street).
- Don't mix coolant with other auto fluids; they are not recyclable when mixed.
- Tempe residents can take many automotive wastes to the Tempe Household Products Collection Center for recycling and proper disposal. The center accepts new and used: fluids, oil, gas, tires, batteries, etc. Visit tempe.gov/householdproducts . For information on other recycling and disposal options contact local parts stores and service facilities.

While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.

