



WATER PROTECTION GUIDE TO Car Washing and Maintenance

Check for Leaks

- Check your parking spot and driveway for evidence of leaks from your car
- Repair any car leaks promptly
- Soak up spills with cat litter or sawdust and place it in the trash
- Store hazardous auto fluids and waste indoors or in a sealed container to prevent spills



Washing Your Car

- When possible, wash vehicles at a full or self-service car wash where used water is recycled or treated
- Wash your car on the lawn or a permeable surface like gravel, not in your driveway or the street
- Use waterless car cleaning products or phosphate-free biodegradable soap
- Pour used soapy water down the sink, not in the street



Car Maintenance at Home

- Prevent spills and contain waste material by using drip pans, drop cloths, tarps, or plastic sheeting

Changing the Oil

- Use a funnel to prevent drips and spills
- Drain used oil into a clean container, never dump oil outside or down the drain
- Allow used oil filter to drain into oil pan for 24 hours
- Take used oil and oil filters to an auto shop or other facility that accepts these material

Flushing the Radiator

- Never dump antifreeze outside or down the drain
- Take antifreeze to an auto shop or other facility that accepts it for disposal

Keep auto fluids out of our streams

Detergents from washing your car can cause harmful algae growth and contain toxic residues from your vehicle. These residues come from exhaust fumes, gasoline, heavy metals from rust, and motor oils that build up on your car. Use a commercial carwash when possible. Check your vehicle often for leaks and repair them promptly. Auto fluids are toxic to aquatic life and the wildlife that drink from our streams.

Your community is taking action

Dispose of used car fluids properly. Boulder County residents responsibly disposed of **76,297 LBS.** of auto fluids at the Hazardous Materials Management Facility in 2020.

Over **15** auto shops in Boulder County accept oil and oil filters, antifreeze, car batteries, and other used auto fluids for disposal. See a list of locations at www.KeepItCleanPartnership.org.

From your Home to the Creek

Polluted stormwater enters storm drains and flows directly to local waterways without receiving treatment at sewage plants.



Common household activities can be sources of pollutants



Rain and snow pick up pollutants and carry them into roads as stormwater



Stormwater enters storm drains on roads and flows through underground channels



Stormwater flows through these channels directly into local creeks without being treated

Boulder St. Vrain Watershed

Our watershed is home to over 300,000 residents who depend on it for drinking water, floodplain functions, recreation, and other services. A watershed is an area of land where all streams and rainfall drain to the same place. A healthy watershed means a healthy community, environment, and economy.

Learn more about our watershed and how you can help protect it at www.KeepItCleanPartnership.org.

