

## WHAT YOU CAN DO . . . ABOUT **CAR CARE**



*Dirty water from car washing, leaky motor oil, and gasoline can wash from our driveways and roads into the storm drain or roadside ditch.*

**Help keep our rivers, lakes,  
and beaches clean**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO . . . ABOUT CAR CARE



### Which car care practices can be harmful?

- Washing your car in the driveway or on the street sends polluted wash water into waterways.
- Allowing continuous fluid leaks onto your driveway or street from your vehicle sends hazardous pollution into waterways.

### How can I wash my car without harming our waterways?

- **Wash your car on the grass**  
Washing your car and dumping wash water on the lawn allows the ground to filter wash water naturally.
- **Host car wash fundraisers at the car wash**  
Commercial car washes are required to send wash water into the sanitary sewer where it can be properly treated.

### How can I practice car care without harming our waterways?

- **Take your car to the shop for maintenance**  
Service centers have the ability to recycle used fluids and properly clean up accidental spills.
- **Safely dispose of used fluids if you change them yourself**  
Take your used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids to your community's household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts them. Never dump these fluids down the storm drain.
- **Stop drips**  
Prevent fluid leaks from reaching paved surfaces. Check for leaks regularly and fix them promptly. Use ground cloths or drip pans to capture leaks until you can get them fixed.

**SEMCOG**

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
1001 Woodward Ave., Suite 1400  
Detroit, MI 48826  
[www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org)