



Storm Water Best Management Practices for Automobile Maintenance At Home

Did you know that there are two sewer systems?

- The *sanitary sewer* collects waste water from homes, business and industry from sinks, toilets and other outlets. It goes to the water treatment plant for treatment.
- The *storm sewer* collects runoff from streets. There is no treatment for the storm sewer; storm water goes into the ground and eventually into the ground water. Anything dumped or left in the street or gutter is pollution that can enter retention basins where children and pets play and from there can infiltrate and contaminate our ground water.

Things you can do to keep pollution out of our storm system:

1 quart of motor oil can contaminate
250,000 gallons of water

- If you change your oil at home you can:
 1. Use a drip pan or piece of cardboard to catch any drips or spills before they go onto your driveway, the street, or into the gutter. Spilled oil should be absorbed using kitty litter or another absorbent and then swept up. Leaving used motor oil or other automotive fluids in the streets or gutters can contaminate stormwater, retention basins, and eventually ground water.
 2. Recycle used motor oil. When done changing the oil, put the old oil in a water tight jug like a used milk jug. Many automotive repair businesses take used motor oil at no charge or take the used oil to the Household Hazardous Waste facility which is free to Gilbert residents (www.gilbertaz.gov/hhw).
 3. *Never* use motor oil or other automotive fluids as dust suppressants or for weed control. Doing this can cause runoff into the street and gutter which can enter a retention basin, where children and pets play, and from there can enter the ground water.
- When it's time to wash your car you can:
 1. Take it to the local car wash and have it washed. Carwashes recycle their water which makes them more efficient. They also have oil/water separators that filter the contaminants out of the water before it is discharged to the sanitary sewer. This is especially important for really dirty vehicles.
 2. If you want to wash your car at home, use a hose nozzle. This will save water and prevent a lot of water from entering the storm sewer. Also, use low phosphate or "green" soap. This will reduce the number of pollutants entering the storm sewer.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain