

Remember, You're Not Just Maintaining Your Car

Did you know there are over four million vehicles in Southeast Michigan? With that many cars and trucks, we all need to practice good car care to protect our lakes and streams.

How does caring for your car affect the Clinton River? Storm drains found in our streets and roadside ditches eventually drain to the Clinton River. So, if “dirty” water from washing our car, motor oil, and other fluids are dumped or washed into the storm drain, they pollute our local waterways.

What can you do? Simple.

- **Make a date.** Car-wash facilities treat their dirty water before discharging it to our lakes and streams. So, make a date to take your car to a car wash.
- **Wash it—on the grass.** If you wash your car at home, consider washing it on the lawn. The lawn will gladly soak up the soapy, dirty water preventing it from entering storm drains or roadside ditches. If you can't use the lawn, try to direct the dirty water towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.
- **Take advantage of business expertise.** Consider taking your vehicle to the shop to have the oil and other fluids changed. These businesses have the ability to recycle the used materials and clean up accidental spills.
- **Recycle.** If you choose to change your oil and other fluids yourself, label the waste containers. Then, take them to your community's household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts used oil. Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit www.semcog.org. Remember, our water is our future — and it's ours to protect!

