

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

# Tips for the Home Mechanic



**C**lean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and ocean are important to Los Angeles County. However, not properly disposing of used oil is illegal and can lead to fines. If you pour or drain oil onto driveways, sidewalks or streets, it can be washed into the storm drain.

Help prevent water pollution by taking your used oil and oil filters to a used oil collection center. Most major automotive maintenance centers will accept up to five gallons of used motor oil at no cost. For a list of locations, please visit [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch/)



For more information, please call the **City of Whittier Public Works Department** at (562) 567-9500 or visit [www.cityofwhittier.org](http://www.cityofwhittier.org)

For information about the proper disposal of household hazardous waste, call the **Los Angeles County Environmental Hotline** at 1-888-CLEAN-LA (1-888-253-2652) or visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com)

For additional information about the nearest oil recycling center, visit [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch)



This brochure was created by the Orange County Stormwater Program and modified for the Greater Los Angeles Area by the City of Whittier.



**The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door**

# Tips for the Home Mechanic

## WORK SITE

- Locate the storm drains on or near your property. Do not allow used oil or any materials to flow into these drains.
- Examine your home for sources of pollution.
- Perform automotive projects under cover and in a controlled area to prevent stormwater runoff.
- Sweep or vacuum your automotive workspace regularly
- Use a damp mop to clean work areas. Never hose down surfaces into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Pour mop water into a sink or toilet. Never dispose of water in a parking lot, street, gutter or storm drain.



## PREVENT LEAKS AND SPILLS

- Keep absorbent materials such as rags and/or cat litter in the work area
- Empty drip pans into a labeled, seal container before they are full
- Wipe up any spills or repair leaks as they happen. Don't let them sit.
- Place large pans under any wrecked cars until all fluids are drained.
- Promptly dispose of collected fluids into a hazardous waste drum or deliver them to an oil recycling center. Used oil recycling locations can be found at [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch/)

## CLEANING SPILLS

- Clean up spills immediately by using absorbent material such as rags, cat litter, or sand. If the material spilled is hazardous, dispose of the rag, litter, or sand in the same manner as hazardous waste. If the material spill is non-hazardous, dispose of it in the trash.
- Immediately report spills that have entered the street, gutter or storm



drain to the County's 24-Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline at 1-888-CLEAN-LA (1-888-253-2652) or visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com) to fill out an incident report.

- Report emergencies to 911.

## VEHICLE FLUID MANAGEMENT

- Vehicle fluids are hazardous waste and must be stored and disposed of in accordance with all local, state and federal laws.
- Designate an area to drain vehicle fluids away from storm drains and sanitary drains.
- When possible, drain vehicle fluids indoors or within covered areas, and only over floors that are constructed of a non-porous material such as concrete. Asphalt and dirt floors absorb spilled or leaked fluids, making the cleanup extremely difficult.

