

How to Wash and Service Your Car for a Clean Creek



Be a Good Creek Neighbor!



Keep Trash, Oil, Solvents and Toxics Out of Our Creek

The Spa Creek Conservancy is a volunteer organization dedicated to educating itself and its diverse resident and business neighbors to create, explore and carry out the rehabilitation and restoration of the Spa Creek watershed to meet its urban conservation and stewardship challenges

For More Information
Visit SINCH:

SCC's Information Clearing House at
www.spacreek.org

Want to Get Involved to
Protect and Restore Spa Creek?

JOIN the Spa Creek Conservancy

Remember...

- Wash your car on gravel or grass
- Use soaps/cleaners marked "biodegradable"
- Fuel your car with care
- Watch for leaks, control spills
- Use non-chlorinated solvents.

References and Resources

Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.
www.cwp.org

Maryland Department of the Environment
www.menv.com

Be a Good Creek Neighbor!

Keep Your Car
from Polluting
Our Waters

For Oil/Antifreeze
recycling locations, visit
www.menv.com

Spa Creek Conservancy
www.spacreek.org

Funded through a grant from
the Chesapeake Bay Trust

I would like to join the Spa Creek Conservancy, Inc. and contribute:
 ___ Regular/Family \$20 ___ Associations/Businesses \$50
 ___ Patrons \$100 ___ Benefactors \$500

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Where you would like to be involved: _____

Please make out your check to: Spa Creek Conservancy, Inc.

Mail to: SCC Treasurer, P.O. Box 2199, Annapolis, MD 21404-2199

You Can Save our Creek from Automobile Pollutants

Did you know?

- A drop of oil can pollute a million drops of fresh water
- A single quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water.
- Everything that washes into gutters and storm drains from your car ends up in Chesapeake Bay
- Cooperstown, New York is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Just imagine the damaging effects of this huge area draining into Chesapeake Bay.

Good Creek Neighbors Can Keep Cars from Polluting

Washing Your Car

Do you wash your own car? Dirt, oil, gas and heavy metals come off your car with the dirty water, so

- Wash your car on gravel or grass where the water won't run off into the street and into storm drains.
- Use earth friendly cleaners and soaps that do not contain phosphates and are marked "biodegradable."
- Use hoses with nozzles that automatically turn off when you are not using water.
- Help pass the word and consider a storm drain stenciling program in your neighborhood that marks each drain with the words BAY DRAINAGE AREA.

Do you use a car wash?

- Wash your car at a commercial facility that treats its water – ask first.

Running a Charity Car Wash?

- Get help from a pollution prevention program for instructions on how to block off the storm drains and catch the dirty water. There are special inserts for the drains which catch the water, vacuum pumps to pump it off to a grassy area and special protective booms.

Maintaining Your Car & Engine

How can I reduce automobile maintenance waste?

Keep the number of cleaners used to a minimum. All liquid cleaning should be done in a centralized station so that solvents and residues stay in one place. Properly locate all drip pans and draining boards to direct solvents and oils into a container for reuse or recycling or proper disposal as hazardous waste.

Use non-chlorinated solvents such as kerosene or mineral spirits. Buy recycled products such as engine oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze and hydraulic fluid .

Control Spills - Use as little water as possible to clean spills, leaks and drips. Use rags for small spills, dry absorbent material for larger spills, and bag up and put in the trash. Use a mop for general clean up, and rinse out in a sink or toilet, not over the ground.

How to Prevent or Reduce Pollution Caused by Routine Car Maintenance

Do maintenance work such as fluid changes indoors.

Watch out for leaks – look under parked vehicles and place a pan to catch the drips.

Take all used fluids to a waste facility such as the Anne Arundel County, MD Landfill & Waste Management station in Millersville for proper recycling or disposal.

Don't pour liquid waste down floor drains, sinks or outdoor storm drains. Put in container and recycle.

Use drain mats to cover drains in case of a spill.

Store cracked batteries inside another leak proof container.

Other Simple Things To Do if you have a car, lawnmower or anything with a gas or diesel engine:

RECYCLE all engine oil and catch all drips when changing the oil

FUEL up carefully to avoid spills

CLEAN UP any spills with absorbent cloth, double bag the cloth and put in the trash

REPAIR any leaks in the engine

TUNE UP for fuel efficiency and controlling air pollution

SAVE GAS by planning to run your errands on one outing

WALK or ride a bike or use public transport when you can.

WHEN BUYING A CAR, choose one that gets good gas mileage

RECYCLE Air Conditioning Coolant. Ask your mechanic about this.

BE CAREFUL with Anti Freeze and Automatic Transmission Fluid. They are toxic too.

RECYCLE all batteries. Store under cover when not in use.

Where to Recycle: Annapolis and Anne Arundel County residents can recycle oil and batteries at the Millersville Landfill on Burns Crossing Road free of charge. Show your driver's license which includes your address. Twice a year there are special hazardous waste collection days. Watch for notices in the newspaper. www.menv.com