

Visit the Following Web Sites for More Details on Car Care:

- **EPA Environmental Fact Sheet on Properly Managing Used Oil Filters**
<http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/downloads/filters.pdf>
- **EPA Used Oil Management Program**
<http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/usedoil/>
- **Oil Filter Recycling**
<http://www.aftermarketsuppliers.org/Councils/Filter-Manufacturers-Council/Recycle-Your-Filter>
- **Environmental Car Care Tips**
http://www.autoeducation.com/articles/environmental_car_care.htm
- **Automotive Care and Maintenance**
<http://www.vteco.com/contntpg/automain.html>
- **The Importance of Used Motor Oil Recycling**
<http://earth911.com/news/2007/03/22/the-importance-of-used-motor-oil-recycling/>

For Teenagers:

- **The Green Driver Project: Addresses High School Driver Education Classes on the Environmental Impact of Driving**
http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/green_driver.htm

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Car Care

Motorists Can Help
the Environment by
Changing a Few Habits



RUSHERN L. BAKER, III
County Executive

Simple Steps to Protect the Environment

Conscientiously Caring for Your Car

Caring for your car is definitely a win-win situation. Besides helping the environment and reducing water and air pollution, a properly maintained and operated vehicle runs more efficiently, is safer and lasts longer. According to a survey of Automotive Service Excellence-Certified Master Auto Technicians, a properly maintained car lasts up to 50 percent longer. The following tips will put you on the road to environmentally conscience car care.

Keep Your Engine Tuned Up

Cars that run smoothly burn less fuel and cause less pollution. A misfiring spark plug can reduce fuel efficiency by as much as 30 percent. Regular tune-ups also reduce the amount of hydrocarbons, nitrous oxides and other pollutants that come out of your car's exhaust pipe. To keep your engine running smoothly, follow the service schedules listed in your owner's manual and replace filters and automotive fluids as recommended.
















Check Your Tires for Proper Inflation

Under-inflated tires waste fuel, wear out more quickly and cause your engine to work harder to move the car. Wheels that are out-of-alignment (as evidenced by uneven tread wear or vehicle pulling) also make the engine work harder.

Recycle Oil and Other Automotive Fluids

Recycling is the only safe way to dispose of used motor oil and other automotive fluids. Recycling allows automotive fluids to be reprocessed and used again. Safely store used motor oil and automotive fluids in leak-proof containers, and take them to a recycling center (many repair facilities accept used motor oil and fluids). Also, the County's Household

Hazardous Waste (HHW) Acceptance Site, at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill, accepts automotive fluids. Never dump used motor oil or automotive fluids on the ground, down a storm drain or in open streams. In addition, never mix used motor oil with other used and recyclable fluids.

	Recycle	Take To Household Hazardous Waste Site
Motor Oil		
Oil Filters		
Antifreeze		
Batteries		
Brake Fluid		
Transmission Fluid		
Gasoline		
Wiper Fluid		
Power Steering Fluid		

Use Commercial Car Washes

Washing your car in your driveway or the street in front of your house is a major source of water pollution. Each year in Prince George's County, approximately 70,000 gallons of detergents are discharged into our streams and rivers from car washing alone. If you must wash your car at home, drive it onto the lawn or a gravel drive where the water will soak into the ground and the soil will filter out the pollutants.

Whenever possible, take your car to a commercial car wash. The dirty water from commercial car washes is

captured, treated and recycled or goes to a wastewater treatment plant where pollutants are removed.

Repair Leaks

Motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid and transmission fluid leaking onto streets and parking lots are a major source of pollution in our local streams. If you notice your car engine, transmission or radiator is leaking, have it repaired immediately. To clean up automotive fluids that have leaked from your car, use cat litter, sawdust or another absorbent material to soak up the spill. Then sweep the area, bag it and put it in the trash. Do not clean the area with water.

More Transportation Tips

- Walk, bike, take a bus or metro and carpool when possible.
- Combine errands into one trip.
- Obey the speed limit; gas mileage decreases above 55 miles per hour.
- Avoid "jack rabbit" starts and anticipate stops to avoid braking.
- Shut off the engine while waiting for friends and family.
- Replace air filters regularly.
- Use recommended grades of oil.

By following the information in this brochure, you could improve your fuel economy and save money, too.