



### **If it's in the Street, It's in the Creek!**

How we use, clean, and maintain our vehicles has a huge impact on the world around us. Oil, antifreeze, gasoline, and other auto fluids can leak from vehicles onto impervious surfaces such as driveways and streets. When it rains, the leaked or spilled fluids from our vehicles are washed off the paved areas and flow directly to the creeks and streams through the storm drains.

Pollutants in the street mean unhealthy creeks and damage to our environment. Below are tips to help you prevent this:

### **Maintaining Your Car**

- Check around your vehicle for leaks, look for a dark patch or evidence of a liquid other than water. Take your vehicle to a mechanic to get all leaks fixed as quickly as possible. Use a drip pan under the vehicle to collect the drips before it is fixed.
- Clean up all leaks promptly. Clean with rags, an oil absorbent material such as kitty litter, powdered soap, or products available at auto supply shops. Sweep up the absorbent material and dispose of in the garbage. If the material is soaked it may need to be disposed of as hazardous material.
- Be careful when filling and re-filling your car with fluids because any leaks and drips will be washed into the storm drain and into creeks and streams. Clean up all of the leaks with the same process as above.
- Recycle used oil, antifreeze, oil filters and other household toxics. Information on how and where to recycle these items click [Here](#) or call ECO DESK at (707) 565-DESK.
- Never hose down spilled or leaked fluids into the street or storm drain
- If you use a solvent to clean up a spill, it must be collected and disposed of as hazardous waste.
- If you wash your car on the street, oil, grease, grime, and soap flows to the storm drain and creek. Even biodegradable soaps are harmful to creek life. Wash your vehicle at a car wash, the waste water is recycled and the sent to the treatment plant.
- Report spills to the street or storm drain at the numbers listed below.

#### Telephone Contacts

707-543-4200 Storm water and the storm drain system information

707-565-3375 Questions on hazardous materials disposal and recycling [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org)

707-543-3800 Report all spilled material in the street or that reaches the storm drain system  
707-528-5151 If spilled material is hazardous  
or call 911