



# Caring for your Car and the Environment

Our everyday activities contribute to the pollution of our rivers, streams and lakes. Storm drains collect water that eventually flows into those water ways. This water is called stormwater runoff. **Oil, gasoline, transmission fluids**, and other chemicals from cars can wash over the pavement and flow into storm drains. Polluted stormwater impacts public health, harms fish and wildlife, kills vegetation and makes Nampa's waterways unsafe for swimming or fishing.

**You can reduce pollution in our storm drains. A few easy changes to start with are:**

- Always take your car to a **car wash** where the rinse water is collected into an approved drain and properly treated.
- If you wash your car at home, use **unpaved surfaces** so dirty water won't flow into a driveway, street, gutter or storm drain.
- **Fix car leaks** as soon as possible. Leaks cause fluid to drip into the gutter. When changing motor oil or degreasing your car's engine at home, work in an area that is a **safe distance** from gutters and storm drains.
- **Use drip pans** when working on your car. Put used motor oil in a clear, one-gallon container such as a milk jug. Place it at your curb side on garbage pick-up day.
- **Ask your repair shop** if they properly dispose of excess fluids when taking your car in for maintenance.



**Keeping Nampa's waterways clean and safe is important for the health of our community!**

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