

Austin guide to... home **MECHANICS**

Home car repair can save money and provide a rewarding hobby, but because it often involves using toxic chemicals, it can also be a major source of pollution. Rainfall can easily wash vehicle fluids off yards and roads and harm our waterways and favorite fishing holes. Most car products are poisonous to fish, and oil from a single automobile engine can produce an eight acre oil slick! Here are some tips that can reduce pollution.



**Shade Tree
Mechanic**

Pollution Prevention:

- **Use drip pans to catch leaking or drained fluids**
- **Repair leaks promptly**
- **Place sorbent materials or cardboard below the work area**
- **If changing a lower radiator hose, water pump, intake manifold, thermostat or radiator, catch the fluid from the drain cockpit and recycle or reuse it**
- **If doing a brake job where you have to bleed the lines, use a kit to capture the fluid or place sorbent at the base of the wheel**
- **For “bondo” work on a fender, place cardboard below the work area**
- **Never use waste motor oil or gasoline to kill weeds**

Pollution Hotline 974-2550

Think you need some more help?

Call 974-2550 for a one-on-one assessment of your car care practices.

A free oil change bucket may be available to those who are recommended by an APD or neighborhood association representative or a spills team investigator

Cleanup:

- **Never dispose of car fluids on the ground, in the trash, or in a storm drain**
- **Recycle your motor oil, drained oil filters, spent solvents, used antifreeze and car batteries**
- **For a small spill, use a sorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust or rags to clean up, then double-bag in plastic bags before putting in the trash**
- **For a large spill, call the 24-Hour Pollution Hotline at 974-2550 for cleanup help**

Storage:

- **Make sure your chemical containers have tight fitting lids and don't leak**
- **Store greasy or oily, parts on a leak-proof surface and keep them undercover**

Contact Information:

Used oil drop off locations:

www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/shadetree
974-2550

Used motor oil recycling:

www.cityofaustin.org/sws/usedoil
974-4343

Battery storage and disposal:

www.cityofaustin.org/sws/batteries
974-4343

Vehicle fluid collection and disposal:

www.cityofaustin.org/sws/hhw
974-4343



**Watershed Protection
Development Review**

974-2550

www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/shadetree