



REDUCE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

in Louisiana Waters

Automobile, ATV and Boat Care

Cars, boats and ATVs represent considerable outlays, and keeping them clean and serviced not only helps show them off, it helps protect that investment. Many Louisiana residents wash and service their vehicles and boats at home. Although this saves money and shows pride, the practice can be an environmental threat if not done properly. Oil, grease and chemicals from servicing your boat and vehicles at home are pollutants if they enter waterways. Soap, road grime and dirt washed off from vehicles and boats also are detrimental to streams.

Vehicle Servicing

Collect used oil in a lidded container and take to local oil recycling collection point (municipal, chain store or local garage). If a recycling station is not available, ask your local elected officials to establish one. Disposal in the garbage is better than pouring it into the drain or on the ground. One quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water. Drain and bag used oil filters and place in garbage. Wipe up small spills and use oil absorbent for larger spills. Place wipes and absorbent in garbage. Bag and take old parts to recycling stations. Be careful with solvents and parts cleaners because these may contain hazardous materials that need to be brought to hazardous materials collection days or sites.

Antifreeze is poisonous to pets, humans and aquatic life. Do not pour in the drain or leave open where pets, wildlife or children can get to it. It causes a terrible death. Transmission fluids, brake and power steering fluids should be handled carefully. Put used containers in the garbage or recycling if available. Car wax can be hazardous to small children, pets, animals and to water so dispose of old cans or bottles properly and place polishing cloths in the trash or store carefully for future use.

Vehicle and Boat Washing

It is best to take vehicles and boats to a properly equipped car wash where the water is collected and treated if required. These facilities have sumps where the solids drop out of the water, and the discharge goes to the sewer where the waste water is treated before being discharged to any stream. Sediment, oil, grease and road grime all contain chemicals that can harm streams when allowed to run into them. Detergents used in washing vehicles and boats are also harmful to streams and lakes.

If no car wash is available, park the boat or vehicle on the grass away from the street or driveway. This allows the water to soak into the soil, permitting the chemicals to filter out and begin the biodegradation process. Water entering the storm drain will have fewer of the waste materials from the vehicle washing process. Use no more soap or detergent than necessary to prevent these materials from reaching the streams. A small amount of soap will go a long way spread over the water surface. Soap reduces the strength of the surface film on water and can disturb the plant animal ecosystem in the stream. Oil or grease suspended in the soap film will aggravate the problems caused by the soap to the aquatic system in the stream or lake receiving the water. Clean up well and dump any wash buckets well away from the street or drains.



<p>Visit our Web site: www.lsuagcenter.com</p> <p>Author: Margaret H. Frey</p> <p>This project was partially funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant #C9-996102-09-0 through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.</p>	<p>Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, William B. Richardson, Chancellor Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, David J. Boethel, Vice Chancellor and Director Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director Pub. 2994-A (10M) 9/07</p> <p>Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.</p>
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