

CAR-TO-WATER CONNECTION



Everyone needs clean water!

Vehicles have parts that wear out which can pollute water, such as heavy metals, chemicals, and rubber from tires.

Fluid leaks, however, are preventable and spills can be contained and cleaned up.

When it rains, water carries pollutants into storm drains and ditches and out to rivers. There, the pollution concentrates and negatively impacts aquatic life and water quality.

Preserving and improving the water quality of the Willamette and McKenzie rivers is everyone's responsibility.

It's a violation of City Code 4.372 to let anything other than rain into Springfield's stormwater system.

Report stormwater pollution

Anything that is not rain and enters the public stormwater system is pollution. Springfield's Stormwater Team specializes in education and cleanup, so please reach out for help.

ABOUT STORMWATER FEES

The City helps you help water!

Every person in Springfield affects water quality. Your daily actions prevent pollution from washing into local rivers and streams. Meanwhile, the City uses the Stormwater Fee, paid through your monthly SUB bill, to build and maintain the public stormwater system.



Ways the City helps water quality:

- Plans, builds, and maintains stormwater infrastructure to reduce flooding from rain.
- Removes 1,000 tons of street debris (including litter, sediment, worn tire particles, etc.) every year through street sweeping and storm drain cleaning programs.
- Picks up 200 tons of leaves annually through the Leaf Pickup Program, so leaves don't clog stormwater infrastructure or overwhelm rivers.
- Requires new property developments to add drainage areas with plants, also called green infrastructure, to help filter pollutants.
- Plants native vegetation and removes invasive species along public waterways.
- Establishes City codes to protect riparian and wetland areas, which provide important wildlife habitat. They're also excellent for cooling water temperatures, which fish love!
- Collaborates with individuals, businesses, industries, and agencies to address local pollution and protect water quality.

Contact us

The City of Springfield's Stormwater Team helps keep local rivers clean. Our information and programs help you protect local rivers too!



STORMWATER TEAM
City of Springfield, Oregon

SpringfieldStreams.org
541-726-3694
WaterResources@springfield-or.gov

WATER-SAFE CAR CARE

Springfield vehicle owners take action to protect Springfield's water quality and precious waterways.



A LITTLE LEAK GOES A LONG WAY!



One DROP of MOTOR OIL contaminates up to 13 gal. of drinking water.



One DROP of GASOLINE contaminates up to 9 gal. of drinking water.



One PINT of MOTOR OIL can produce a slick on one acre of water.

1 DON'T DRIP & DRIVE

Biggest challenge: vehicle leaks

Don't let your vehicle pollute the waterways and water supplies you rely on. Here's how:

- 🔹 **Inspect and maintain your vehicle regularly to prevent leaks before they start.** If there's a leak, get it fixed as soon as possible. In the meantime, catch fluids in a drip pan or container. Clean all spills by soaking them up with absorbent materials and throwing away.
- 🔹 **Perform maintenance work indoors, or under cover, on a flat surface where spills can be easily contained.** Use a funnel to avoid spills when pouring, and a drip pan to catch any potential leaks.
- 🔹 **Never work on a vehicle in the street or near a storm drain or drainage ditch.** Properly discard oil and other fluids. *See the table below.*

TO SAFELY DISCARD USED FLUIDS

- ✓ Motor oil
- ✓ Oil filters
- ✓ Transmission fluid
- ✓ Anti-freeze
- ✓ Solvents
- ✓ De-greasers
- ✓ Gasoline
- ✓ Brake fluid

FREE disposal at:
Glenwood Transfer Station
3100 E. 17th Ave., Eugene
541-682-4120

Keep different fluids separate. Put in non-breakable containers with screw-top lids and label each one.

For hazardous waste disposal, call ahead to schedule an appointment.

2 WASH SMARTER

Car washing affects water quality

When it comes to water quality, some ways to wash your vehicles are better than others.

The best choice is to use a commercial car wash. The second best is to wash at home on a porous surface. The last option is to block water from the stormwater system and redirect it or vacuum it with a shop-vac. *See the table below for details.*

BEST WASHING OPTIONS

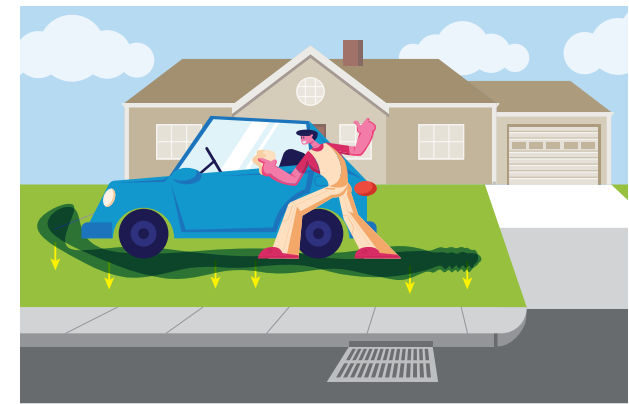
1st Best Choice	Use a commercial car wash. Dirty water is collected and either recycled or sent to the regional wastewater treatment plant for cleaning.
2nd Best Choice	Wash on a porous surface (lawn, gravel, etc.) so the ground can filter dirty water.
3rd Best Choice	Block the storm drain and re-direct (or vacuum/pump) dirty water to a safe location such as landscaping.

If washing at home:

- 🔹 **DO** wash on a porous surface so the ground can help filter dirty water. **DON'T** wash on hard surfaces like driveways or streets.
- 🔹 **DO** use cold water. **DON'T** use heated water or steam. Warm water doesn't cool down on its way to the river and it harms aquatic life.
- 🔹 **DO** block dirty water from hard surfaces and either vacuum the water, or re-direct to landscaping. **DON'T** use soaps or detergents if the wash water may flow onto paved areas.
- 🔹 **NEVER** wash vehicle engine blocks or undercarriages. **It's strictly prohibited** due to severe water pollutants.

Rethink car wash fundraisers

Planning to raise money by hosting a car wash? Contact Springfield's Stormwater Team to borrow a FREE Car Wash Kit, which blocks the storm drain and pumps water away.



Wash vehicles on a porous surface like the lawn. Dirty water will soak into the ground where natural processes help filter it.

No such thing as safe soap for rivers

Soaps change water chemistry – that's how they are effective. That's also why no soaps are safe for local waterways. All soaps pollute rivers and streams, even if they're labeled biodegradable, organic, green, safe for fish, or non-toxic. All soaps break water surface tension, lower oxygen levels, harm delicate tissues, and more. Even biodegradable soaps take time to break down. The best option for disposing of soapy water is to put it down an indoor drain so it flows to the wastewater treatment plant for cleaning.



3 CHECK TIRE PRESSURE

Drive safer, save money, protect rivers

Check your tire pressure monthly and add air if needed.

Inflated tires wear less which means less tire particles washing from streets into rivers when it rains. Don't wait to inflate! Find details at DontWaitToInflate.org.



Courtesy of Puget Sound Starts Here.