

Properly Dispose Of Used Oil Keep All Vehicles and Equipment Well Maintained



Do you remember the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska or the more recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico? Both of these events spilled millions of gallons of oil into the environment with devastating effects on water quality and wildlife.

Think for a minute about equipment and vehicles that you own. Are they well maintained? Could they possibly be leaking oil? One little bit of leaking machine oil or a few quarts of vehicle oil may not seem like much to an individual, but think about the cumulative effects of oil leaking from the many cars, trucks, boats, hedge clippers, lawn mowers, snow blowers, leaf blowers, garden cultivators, etc., across the country – all being carried downhill in different watersheds, including our Christina River watershed. Together, the amount could exceed the Exxon Valdez or the BP spill.

Check your own garage, driveway or street for telltale signs of oil leaks. “The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection reports that Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil per year, most of which ends up in waterways. “ (<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/used-motor-oil-pollute-79336.html>)

What to Do:

- If you change your own vehicle oil, please recycle it. Do not dispose of it in the trash, pour it on the ground or down the drain. The Delaware Solid Waste Authority has a program to help. http://www.dswa.com/programs_oilfilter.asp
- Clean-up oil leaks on driveways or concrete when they occur so the oil won't be washed into waterways by storms. Use kitty litter to absorb the oil from concrete, sweep up and dispose of properly.
- Regularly have your equipment and vehicles inspected for leaks. Make all necessary repairs.