

## Responsible Car Care for Pollution Prevention

When you're washing your car in the driveway, remember that you're not just washing your car IN the driveway. The soapy water, dirt and automotive fluids that run off the driveway may eventually make it to a storm sewer then to a pond, stream or one of Fort Wayne's rivers. What may seem like a small amount of water can have a big environmental impact.

Practicing responsible car care can help protect water quality. Here are some ways that you can help keep local waterways clean:

- 1 Use a commercial car wash rather than washing your car in the driveway. Area car wash facilities send their dirty water to the sewage treatment plant for treatment before it is discharged to a river. If you must wash the car at home, direct the soapy water onto your lawn instead of into the gutter, street or side ditch.
- 2 Keep your vehicle properly tuned and use the owner's manual to help you decide how often to change fluids such as oil or anti-freeze.
- 3 If you are a do-it-yourself mechanic, remember to dispose of automotive fluids properly. Take them to a business that accepts waste fluids or to Tox-Away Day. Never, never dump anything down a storm drain or on the ground!
- 4 Consider taking your car to the "shop" for routine maintenance. Automotive centers may charge a small fluid disposal fee, but you can be assured they are managing auto waste properly.
- 5 If you spill a small amount of automotive fluid or if you know that your vehicle has a small leak, use kitty-litter to absorb the liquid. Sweep it into a bag then dispose of it with your trash.

For more information on proper management or disposal of automotive fluids, check out the Allen County Solid Waste District website at [www.acwastewatcher.org](http://www.acwastewatcher.org) or see the District's annual WasteWatcher publication.