

# BEST PRACTICES



## Puget Sound Starts with Car Care

### It Takes Just Three Small Actions

Together, we can keep pollution out of our creeks, lakes, rivers and Puget Sound. Our own actions add up to a BIG difference for Puget Sound, the Salish Sea and marine life!

When it rains, pollution from cars is washed into storm drains and local waterways. Pollutants like oil, car wash soaps, chemicals, and bits of tire dust harm local waterways, people and wildlife, like salmon and orcas that depend on clean water to survive.

### Test Your Car Care Knowledge

Take the car care quiz and earn a FREE Chinook Book at [pugetsoundstartshere.org/carcare](http://pugetsoundstartshere.org/carcare).



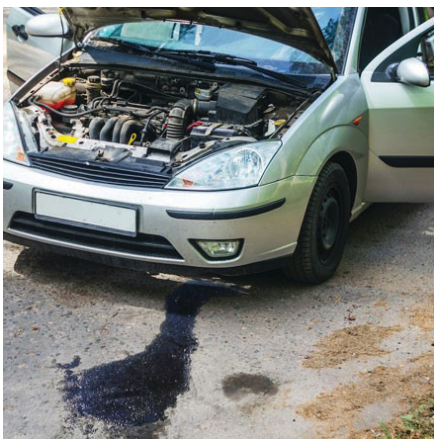
## Here's how you can help:



### Car Washing

- Take your car to a commercial car wash. Commercial car washes are required to treat their dirty wash water.
- If using a commercial car wash isn't an option, wash your car on a grassy area. The grass and soil will soak up the wash water, preventing it from running down the street into a storm drain.

When you wash your car, the rinse water contains harmful pollutants like oil, grease, heavy metals and soaps. If you wash your car on the street or in your driveway, the pollutants run onto the street and into the storm drain, and then flow untreated into our local creeks, lakes, rivers and Puget Sound. That's why in many communities it's illegal to let soapy water enter a storm drain.



### Don't Drip & Drive

- Check your vehicle for leaks regularly and get them fixed promptly. Learn how to diagnose or fix a leak by visiting [fixcarleaks.org](http://fixcarleaks.org).
- Always dispose of used motor oil properly by bringing it to your local auto shop for recycling. Call 1-800-RECYCLE or visit [1800recycle.wa.gov](http://1800recycle.wa.gov) to find a location near you.
- Use ground cloths or drip pans if you find a leak or are doing engine work. Clean up spills immediately using an absorbent such as kitty litter then sweep it up and place it in a trash bag.

Even a small oil leak can have a big impact on your car and our creeks, lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound. Every drop on your driveway means a shorter lifespan for your car. Plus, oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife, and plants.



### Tire Maintenance

- Keep tires properly inflated to slow tire wear and increase fuel efficiency. Check your tire pressure once per month, either with your own pressure gauge or at a gas station air pump. You can find the recommended tire pressure in your owner's manual, stamped on the tire itself, or on a sticker inside the driver's side door.
- Get your tire alignment checked and rotate tires according to the manufacturer's instructions. Proper alignment and regular rotation prevent uneven wear on your tires, reducing the amount of tire particles that wear off as you drive.

Car tires are made with many chemicals that help protect them from damage. As we drive, tires wear down, leaving tiny bits of tire behind on our roads. The chemicals in the tire bits are toxic to fish. When it rains, the runoff picks up the tire bits and carries them down storm drains and into our waterways.

Scientists recently discovered an ingredient in tires called 6PPD-Q. It's used to preserve tire rubber, but when it reacts with ozone in the air, it transforms into a new chemical that's highly toxic to coho salmon. Learn more about this by visiting [seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/tire-dust-is-killing-salmon](https://seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/tire-dust-is-killing-salmon).

Taking care of your tires is the best thing drivers can do to reduce wear and prevent tire pollution.

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