

Oil Pollution Facts

Did you Know?

- < An estimated 60% of the total annual sales of motor oil in the United States goes to private consumers who change their own oil.
- < The total amount of improperly disposed used oil in the United States is a staggering 350 million gallons.
- < The amount of oil dumped by do-it-yourself auto mechanics every two and a half weeks is equivalent to the 11 million gallons spilled by the Exxon Valdez.
- < 62% of all petroleum-pollution in the United States come from used lube oil.
- < Only 10% of the do-it-yourselfers recycle their waste oil properly. The remaining 90% dump it on the ground, in the garbage, or down the sewer.
- < Oil poured into sanitary sewers goes to the sewage treatment plants where it is chlorinated, a process known to create -- not eliminate -- dangerous organic chemicals from the waste oil components.
- < Used oil often contains toxic metals such as lead, cadmium, arsenic, and chromium, which can seep into water tables if dumped on the ground.
- < 257 million gallons of oil go into our water supplies each year.
- < One quart of oil is enough to make 250,000 gallons of water toxic.
- < 40% of the pollution in America's waterways is from used engine oil.
- < The failure to recycle oil represents not only an environmental hazard, but a missed opportunity to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. According to the American Petroleum Institute, it takes 43 gallons of crude oil compared to just one gallon of used oil, to make 2.5 quarts of virgin lubricating oil.
- < If we refined the billion gallons of motor oil used every year in the United States, we would save 1.3 million barrels of oil per day, or half the daily output of the Alaskan Pipeline.

So, the next time you have your oil changed at a car care center, by making sure they dispose of used motor oil properly, you will be doing your part to ***Keep Clayton County Beautiful.***