

# The Car Care Cheat Sheet

## Your work area

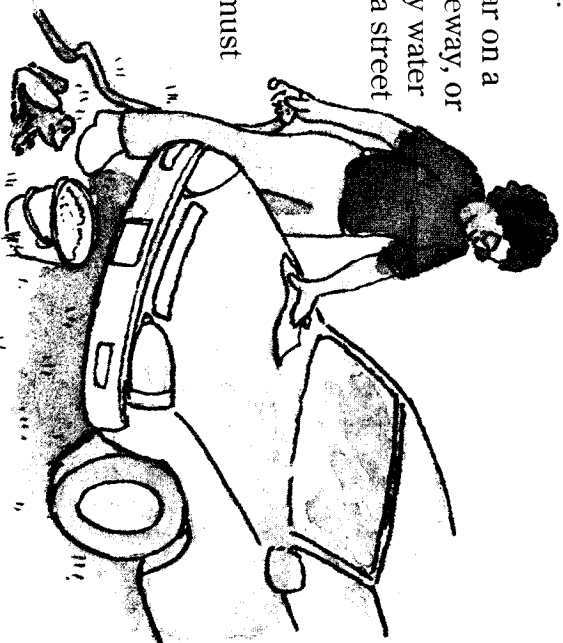
*When you're working on your car, remember that any drips or spills left in a street or driveway can flow to a storm drain and on to the Bay!*



- ✓ DO choose a work area that is easy to clean up, with an impervious floor if possible.
- ✓ DO use plastic tarps and drip pans when your car is leaking, and when you're working on it. Fix leaks as soon as possible!
- ✓ DO use sawdust or cat litter for spills. Sweep it up, bag it, and put it in the trash. For large spills, use a squeegee and dust pan first.
- ✗ DON'T hose down your work area!

## Cleaning your car

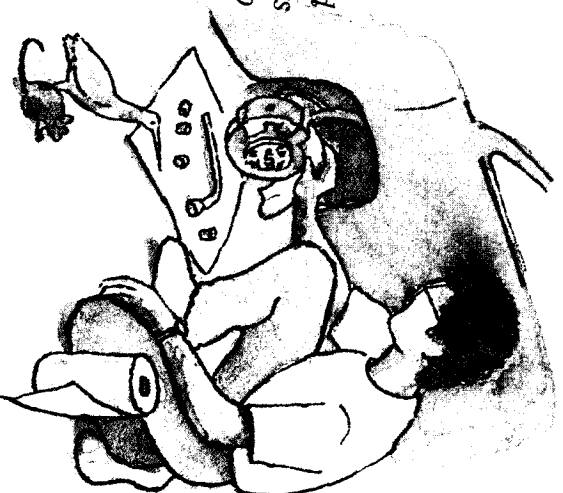
*Rinsewater from car washing or brake or engine cleaning can harm wildlife if it enters a storm drain.*



- ✓ DO use a commercial car wash that recycles water or discharges it directly to the sewer for treatment at the local wastewater plant.
- ✓ DO wash your car on a lawn, gravel driveway, or area where soapy water will not run into a street or storm drain.
- ✓ DO use soap sparingly if you must wash your car at home — even biodegradable soap is toxic to wildlife.
- ✓ DO pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done.
- ✓ DO use paper towels to wipe brake dust off of wheels before washing.
- ✗ DON'T use spray-on wheel cleaners — or rinse them off — where rinsewater might flow to a street or storm drain.

## Brake work

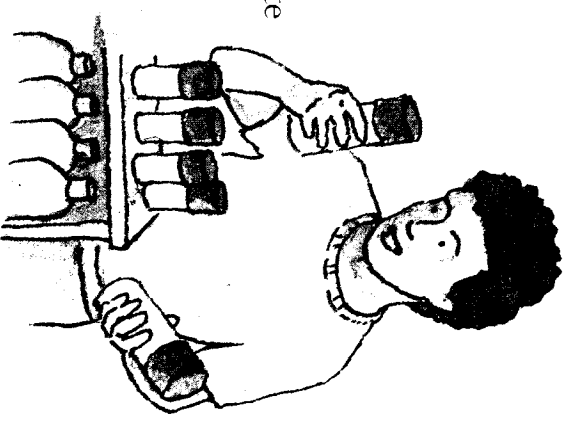
*Most brake pads (part of disc brakes, generally on the front wheels) contain copper, which wears off as the pads wear, and contributes significant amounts of toxic stormwater pollution to our creeks and Bay.*



- ✓ DO clean brake dust off of wheels with paper towels, and dispose of towels in the trash.
- ✓ DO ask your auto parts supplier about no-copper or low-copper brake pads for your car.

## Engine cleaning and degreasing

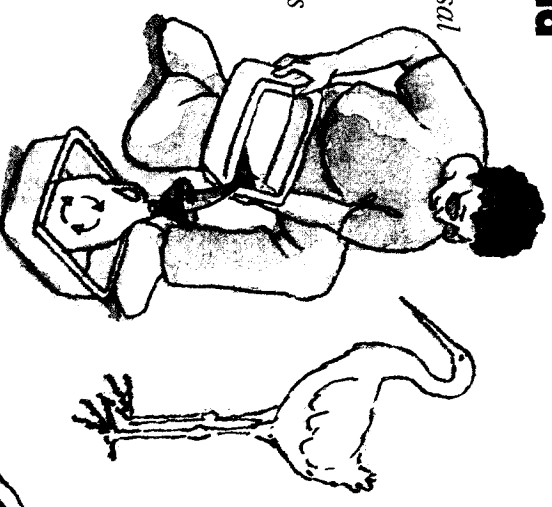
*Many degreasers contain highly toxic solvents that are dangerous to work with and harmful to the environment.*



- ✓ DO read labels carefully before you buy. Avoid products containing
  - Trichloroethane or trichloroethylene
  - Naphtha
  - Nonylphenol ethoxylate
- ✓ DO use rags instead of water when you're cleaning.
- ✓ DO use non-flammable, more biodegradable alternatives to highly toxic degreasers. Try limonene, a citrus-based solvent. Put any rinsewater down a sink or toilet — never into a storm drain.
- ✗ DON'T clean your engine at home unless you can contain and properly dispose of the rinsewater—a hazardous waste. Instead, take your engine, or parts, to a local parts store that offers a cleaning service or to a shop that collects and treats engine wastewater.

## Changing oil, antifreeze, and other fluids

*Proper use and disposal of auto fluids is an easy way to prevent stormwater pollution and protect our creeks and Bay.*



- ✓ DO drain fluid into a drain pan. Use a funnel to pour fluid into a plastic container.
- ✓ DO recycle used oil. (See back panel.)
- ✓ DO recycle your old oil filter. Poke holes in it and let it drain into your oil pan for several hours first.
- ✓ DO dispose of radiator fluid properly. (See back panel.) Don't flush your radiator where fluids may flow into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- ✗ DON'T drain or pour any auto fluid onto the street or into a storm drain.
- ✗ DON'T mix coolant with other auto fluids. They are not recyclable when mixed.

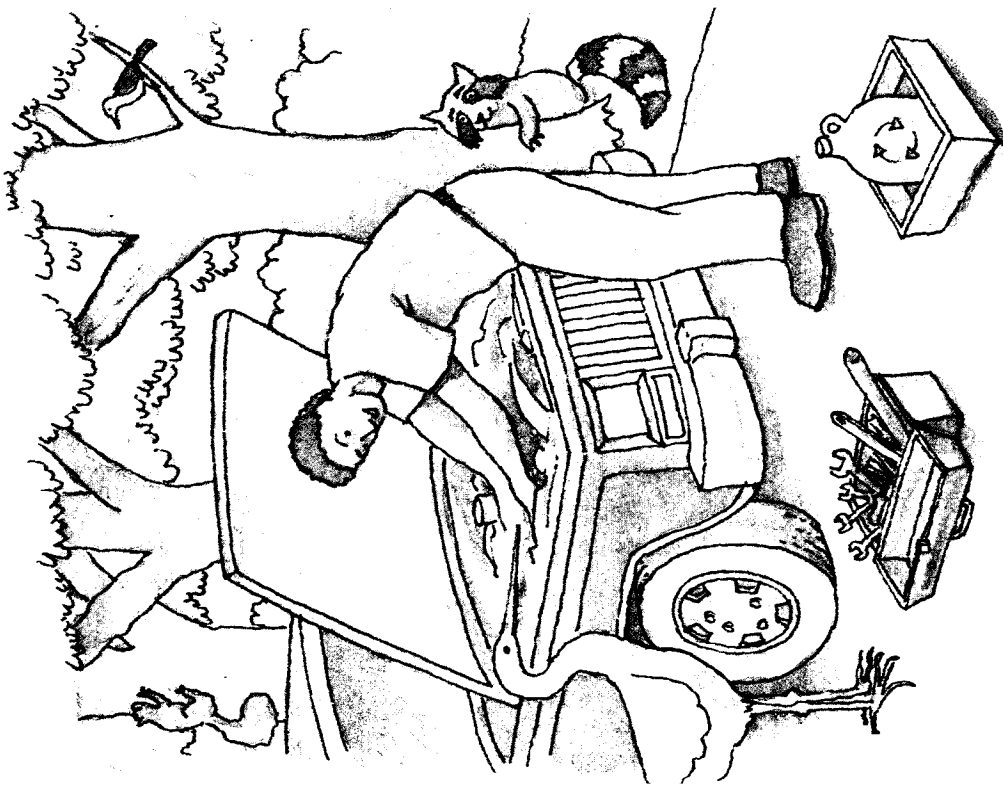
**You can help prevent pollution in our creeks and Bay! Remember, only rain down the storm drain!**



Make a Clear Difference

# Car repair and pollution prevention

How to plan your auto repair projects to protect our creeks and Bay



# Keep it all in tune



255 Glacier Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553-4897

Clean Water Program is a consortium of the above agencies comply with Federal Clean Water Act requirements under authority of the San Francisco Bay and Central Valley Regional Control Boards.

recycling pickup days, leave oil next to tables in non-breakable one-gallon sealed with tight-fitting lids.

- Pleasant Hill Bayshore..... (510) 685-4716
- Pleasant Hill Bayshore..... (510) 685-4716
- Valley Waste Management.. (510) 837-3356
- Pacific Rim Recycling..... (510) 746-6067

**Oil Recycling Programs:**  
Contra Costa Clean Water Program  
No Dumping (1-800-663-8674)

- But Creek..... (510) 943-5827
- Ramon..... (510) 275-2331
- Pablo..... (510) 215-3068
- mond..... (510) 412-2014
- burg..... (510) 671-5261
- burg..... (510) 439-4869
- burg..... (510) 724-9010
- burg..... (510) 253-4231
- burg..... (415) 546-7111
- burg..... (510) 372-3567
- burg..... (510) 284-1951
- burg..... (510) 799-8245
- burg..... (510) 215-4367
- burg..... (510) 820-1080
- burg..... (510) 313-2238

ation about:  
water pollution prevention or stormwater programs in your area, call:

# Help the Bay get an A!

Having the right helps prevent po the Bay!

## Essay question:

Name 7 things you can do to help stop po caused by cars.

1. Drive less! Walk or ride a bike whenever can. Consolidate trips. Ride the bus or train. Car pool with a friend.
2. Watch for leaks from your car and n them promptly.
3. Recycle used oil and oil filters.
4. Exchange your old car battery when buy a new one or take it to a recycle center or household hazardous waste collection site/event.
5. If you see someone pouring used auto fluids into the street, gutter, or storm drain, call 1-800-NO DUMPING. Pouring any substance into a storm is against the law!
6. When you see a smoking auto or t on the road make a note of lic number, date, and location and 1-800-EXHAUST to report it.
7. When your auto air conditioner requires service, find out if it

## Multiple Choice:

Where does most water pollution in the Bay come from?

- ☐ a) Wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the Bay
- ☒ b) Cars
- ☐ c) Industry and ship traffic
- ☐ d) None of the above

How do cars contribute to Bay pollution?

- ☐ a) Particles of exhaust drift onto roadways and into the Bay.
- ☐ b) Leaks and drips wash off of streets and highways into storm drains and into creeks and the Bay.
- ☐ c) Parts of cars that are designed to wear off with use (such as tires and brake pads) leave toxic residue on the roadway that becomes stormwater pollution.
- ☒ d) All of the above

What happens when water or pollution gets into a storm drain?

- ☐ a) It flows through the storm drain system to a wastewater treatment plant.

## True or False:

☐ F Each year in the U.S. an estimated 180 million gallons of used oil are disposed of improperly — dripped, spilled, or poured onto the ground, directly into waterways, or down storm drains. That's sixteen times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez!

☐ F Recent studies show that as brake pads wear, they contribute up to 40 percent of the copper that enters the Bay through storm drains.

☐ F Smoking vehicles — just 10 percent of the cars on the road — cause 50 percent of our air pollution. And since what goes up must come down, air pollution causes water pollution as well.

☐ F A car that isn't tuned properly produces 10 to 15 times more pollution than a well-running vehicle.

☐ F Running your air conditioner for 5 to 10 minutes each week in the winter helps prevent your seals from leaking and causing