Take the Drip Test

Place a 2’ x 4’ piece of white cardboard (or cover cardboard with newspaper) under the front part of your car between the wheels. Be sure to cover any spots on the ground.

Leave the car in place for a few hours or overnight.

Turn this card over to find out what your results mean.

...not just a drop in the parking lot!

Rain washes this oil to the nearest stream. A car leaking only a few drops a day can contribute to water pollution. For example, one pint of oil can contaminate an area larger than a football field.

Whose car is this oil leaking from? Yours?

Have you noticed spots under your car? Have you added fluids to your car lately? Leaks can indicate a problem with your vehicle that could damage your car.
What Do the Drips Mean?

- Amber fluid – power steering fluid
- Dark brown or black and oily – engine oil leak
- Green or yellow – radiator coolant/antifreeze leak
- Reddish and oily – transmission fluid leak
- Clear and oily – brake fluid
- Clear but NOT oily – air conditioner condensation or windshield wiper fluid.

What Do I Do?

- Bring your car to a mechanic for repair
- Repair the leak yourself
- Try using a leak stopping automotive additive
- Put a drip tray or a piece of cardboard under the car.

Most of us are lucky enough to enjoy the gift of clean, healthy water. Take action so your children’s children will experience the same gift.

Brought to you by the Kitsap Stormwater Consortium—local state, county, city, and military agencies working to improve water quality. For more information, contact The Open Line at 360-337-5777

When your car is leaking oil on the street, it’s not just leaking oil on the street.