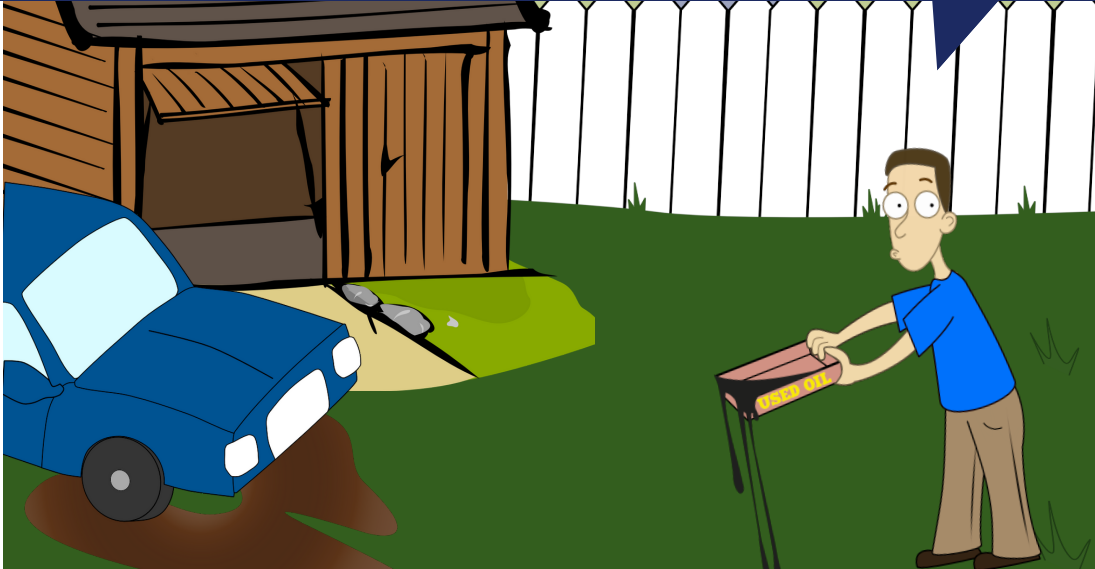# POLLUTED SOIL COULD MEAN POLLUTED WATER

Soil and water quality? How could pollution that gets into the soil possibly have an impact on our water quality?   Water knows no boundaries!

Disposing of pollutants into your yard could impact our water. Used motor oil, pool chemicals, wash water from cleaning, metals and fluids from vehicles, storage drums and machinery exposed to the weather, and even small, left over amounts of old chemicals can all impact our water quality. It would seem that small amounts of these won't harm anything. But <u>small amounts of pollutants multiplied by thousands of residents can make a large impact on our shared drinking water</u>.

USED OIL

Stormwater can potentially push these pollutants through the soil as it makes its way down to recharge the aquifer (groundwater) below. So, what we put on the ground could ultimately come into contact with our drinking water resource underneath, especially if your area has thin soils.

Water moves through soil much like a sponge. Think about pouring clean water on a sponge. Once saturated, the clean water will flow out the bottom of the sponge, right? But if we sprinkle red powder on top of the sponge and then pour water, what happens to the water color? We get red or pink colored water flowing out because the water pushed the red powder through the sponge! Pollutants that mix into our soil work much in the same way as this sponge example when they come in contact with stormwater.

Here's what you can do!

1. Store all machinery and hazardous materials indoors or undercover
2. Only rinse non-toxic, organic chemicals and cleaning solutions outside
3. Stop adding maintenance chemicals and let sunshine dechlorinate your pool/Jacuzzi for a few days before draining it into your yard

4. Cool hot cooking grease in a metal can and put in trash
5. Absorb pint size, unused chemicals & engine fluids in cat litter and put in trash
6. Recycle used motor oil and vehicle batteries at a mechanic's shop
7. Change your vehicle and mower oil indoors
8. Keep all road salt inside

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