

## 6. Return Used Batteries

Return your used car or truck battery to the place where you bought it. Other retailers may charge you for disposal. Be careful – old batteries may leak acid. Wear gloves and goggles and put the old battery in a leak-proof container. If you drop it, neutralize any spilled acid with baking soda or lime.

Do not throw old batteries in the trash or bury them – you'll be breaking the law. Old batteries contain hazardous chemicals that can leach through the soil and pollute our groundwater.

## 7. Check Tire Pressure

One of the simplest and cheapest ways to prevent pollution is to keep your tires inflated. For every pound that your tires are under-inflated, your car loses 1% in gas mileage. Under-inflated tires also wear out sooner. The solution is simple – check your tire pressure frequently, especially as temperature changes in the fall and spring. Tires lose a pound of pressure for every 10-degree drop in temperature. By reducing the amount of gasoline your car burns, properly inflated tires reduce the amount of polluted exhaust that your car makes.

## 8. Use Up Paints, Polishes and Cleaners

Paints, polishes and special cleaners for cars are usually flammable and toxic. Try to buy only what you need. If large amounts are left over, donate them to a friend or a school auto-repair class.

To dispose of small amounts, leave the container open in a safe place away from children, pets, wildlife and flames. When the liquid is gone and the substance is hard, cap the container and put it in the trash. The potentially toxic ingredients are locked into the hardened material and are less likely to cause pollution. However, burning will release the toxic chemicals. If your community burns trash, ask the public works department how to properly dispose of these materials.

## 9. Substitute Shoveling for Salt

Salt may be an easy way to get rid of snow and ice, but it pollutes lakes, streams and groundwater. It also kills trees and grass as well as corroding auto bodies, metal bridges and underground cables. Shovel your driveway and sidewalk before the snow gets packed down and icy. If the pavement is still slick, use sand or sand mixed with salt to provide some traction and melt the snow. After the snow melts, sweep up the sand to keep it out of storm sewers and waterways.

## 10. Drive Less

Driving less is the best way to prevent pollution. Water quality tests show that the most polluted runoff comes from heavily traveled streets and highways. This runoff often contains enough zinc, lead or copper to kill fish and other aquatic life.

Is there a way you could help reduce water pollution by driving less? Could you walk, ride a bike, car pool or take the bus to work? If not every day, could you do this once or twice a week? Could you do several errands on your next shopping trip? Could you work at home one day a week?

Driving seems cheap and convenient, but many costs, such as road construction, are hidden in our tax bills. If we paid the full price of auto transportation at the gas pump, a gallon would cost \$4.50 or more.

