

# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO WATERSHED FRIENDLY BOAT & AUTO CARE

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How we take care of our boats, personal watercrafts, mobile homes, cars and other vehicles greatly influences the health of the Kawkawlin River and Saginaw Bay. You can do your part to prevent pollution at the source by following a few simple tips at home and at the marina!

## Car & Boat Washing

- **Wash on the grass and not on the driveway or parking lot.**  
The soapy water is absorbed and filtered by the ground vs. running off pavement into the rivers and streams through the storm drains.
- **Look for non-toxic and phosphate-free cleansers.**  
Phosphates add unwanted nutrients into the water and cause problems like toxic algal growth which can effect drinking water sources as well as create poor living conditions for aquatic animals.
- **Use alternative cleaners,** such as baking soda and lemon juice. Avoid those with bleach, ammonia, lye or petroleum distillates.



## Useful Tips for Car & Boat Maintenance!

### Fuel and Oil

- When fueling, avoid topping off! Remember that fuel expands as it warms up in your tank.
- Store fuel only in approved containers.
- Routinely check for and fix oil and fuel leaks.

### Engine care

- Keep boat and car engines properly tuned for efficient fuel consumption and clean exhaust.
- Use a drip pan when doing engine maintenance. Drippings left on the cement get washed into nearby drains and end up in our streams

### Sewage control

- Use onshore restrooms when docked, and encourage everyone to use the facilities before casting off.
- Empty portable toilets only at pump out stations or at home.
- Clean up after your pet to prevent pet waste from washing into storm drains.



# HERE IS A LIST OF PRODUCTS AND THEIR NATURAL, WATERSHED-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES!

Product	Better Alternative
Bleach	Borax or hydrogen peroxide
Chrome cleaner	Apple cider vinegar to clean, baby oil to polish
Drain cleaner	Boiling water and plunger or plumber's snake
Engine cleaner	Steam clean the engine in a dedicated area
Fiberglass stain remover	Baking soda paste, scrub pad, "elbow grease"
Paint stripper	Physically remove old paint without chemical use. Avoid products containing methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, benzene, trichloroethane, xylene or toluene
Scouring powders	Baking soda and "elbow grease"
Window cleaner	Vinegar and lemon juice mixed in lukewarm water
Wood polish	Olive oil or almond oil for interior wood; use water- or borax-based products.

