

Clean Ocean Action's ~10 Tips For Drivers ~



1. Drive less. Car-pool, use mass-transit, cycle, or walk. If you must own a car, purchase a hybrid or other fuel efficient vehicle. The more fossil fuels conserved, the less need there is to drill and ship oil.

2. Road Rage...bad on the environment and your wallet. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration, and braking) wastes gas. The US Department of Energy reports that gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph.

3. Don't be idle. Turn off your car if idling for more than 30 seconds, such as waiting at a drawbridge. Each day idling releases over 16-million lbs of greenhouse gases into the air. In the winter, a 30-second warm-up is adequate.

4. Check your tires. Poorly inflated tires can result in up to 10% fuel loss. Invest in durable tires that will last. Ask your tire dealer or county solid waste coordinator about recycling old tires.

5. Check for leaks. Leaky gaskets, radiators, and engine parts drip staggering amounts of oil, anti-freeze, and other automotive toxins onto roads, parking lots, and driveways, which eventually wash into waterways. **These leaks nationally are estimated to equal the Exxon Valdez spill - 10.9 million gallons of petroleum - every eight months.** Additionally, more than half the oil runoff in North America occurs from Maine to Virginia.

6. Keep your car in tune. Keeping your car properly tuned-up results in 5% better fuel efficiency and cleaner emissions. Frequent automotive check-ups will also detect leaks and other pollution problems. Frequent oil changes (every 3,000-5,000 miles) will give better mileage and a cleaner burning engine.



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7. Avoid traveling with heavy items. The heavier your vehicle, the less fuel efficiency your car will have.

8. Recycle used oil and anti-freeze. Never pour them down storm drains or “behind the garage.” By law, service stations that offer oil changes must accept used motor oil. Recycle anti-freeze at household hazardous waste disposal sites.

9. Avoid air conditioning. Boost your car’s fuel economy by turning off the AC!

10. Shop consciously. Production of a new car uses many more resources than buying a used one. When buying, consider a reconditioned, fuel-efficient, or hybrid car. Donate your used car to an organization in need.



Nonpoint source or “pointless” pollution is the number one cause of coastal water pollution. This pollution has many sources, including stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By making small changes you can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:



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