

4-7-11crwp

Spring cleaning is probably on the minds of many now that winter is on its way out. Start the season off right with habits to maintain not only your household but also the water quality of your nearby lakes, streams, and rivers.

If you want to wash your car, either take it to a professional car wash where the soapy water will run to a treated sewer line or wash it on your lawn to minimize soapy runoff into nearby ditches or storm drains. Check your vehicles for leaks and spills, and avoid cleaning spills by hosing them down. Use dry absorbent materials like kitty litter and sweep up the spill instead. Used motor oil can be recycled at monthly events held in Russell Township.

Choose environmentally-safe products. There are many natural commercial cleaner options available, or you can make your own cleaners using common safe household substances like baking soda, white vinegar, and lemon. In your yard, fertilize sparingly and look for commercial fertilizers that use minimal or no phosphorous. Collect lawn clippings, leaves and yard waste for composting instead of leaving them to wash into nearby streets and streams. Also, pick up your pet's waste! Pet waste runoff into nearby untreated waterways can cause serious health risks and contamination issues.