

FIX YOUR LEAKS, PROTECT THE BEACH!



Did you know that car maintenance impacts water quality?

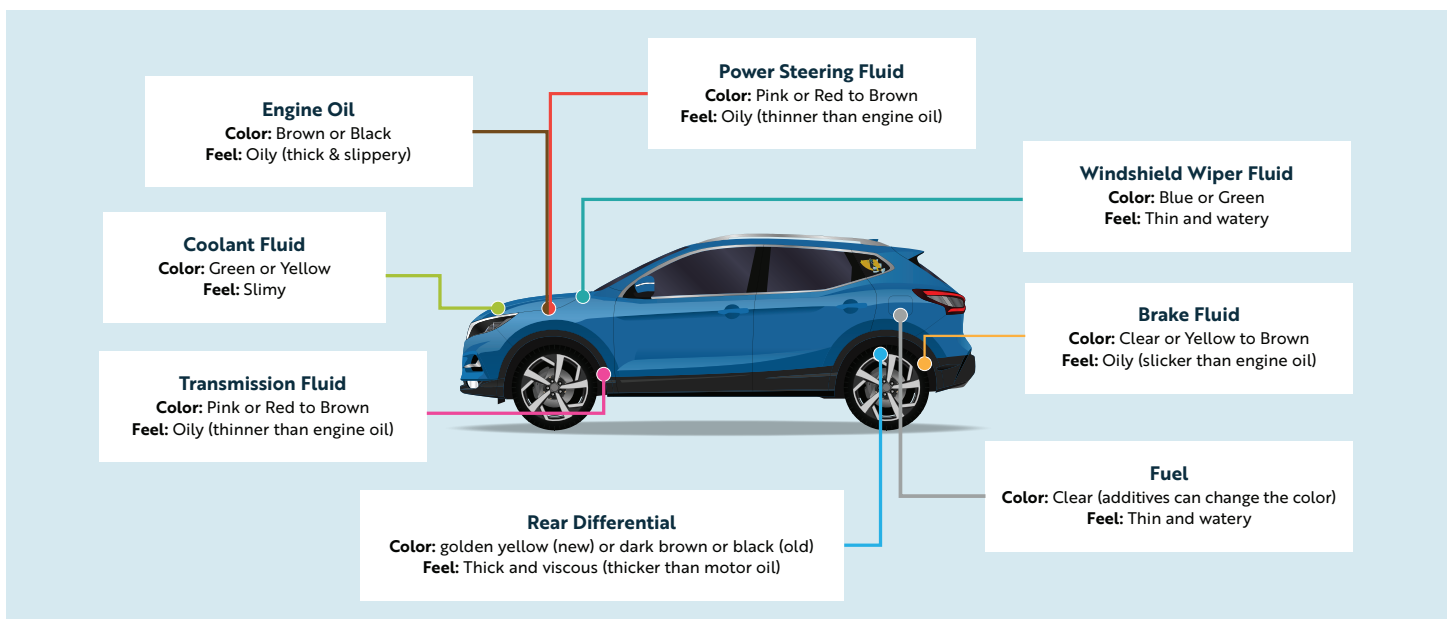
Leaks from your car and other pollutants like brake dust and microplastics can flow to the ocean through our storm water system. Be a part of the solution by following this guide for more information.

Steps to Identify a Leak:

1. **Use a Drip Mat or Cardboard** – Place under the car overnight to observe fluid color and location.
2. **Check Fluid Levels** – Sudden drops indicate a leak.
3. **Inspect Hoses and Seals** – Look for cracks or damp spots.
4. **Smell the Fluid** – Each fluid has a distinct odor.
5. **Touch Carefully** – Identify texture, but wash hands afterward.

By correctly identifying a leak, you can take the necessary maintenance steps before serious damage occurs. If uncertain, consult a mechanic for further inspection. Once you've identified the leak, get it fixed!

To accompany this guide, refer to the car diagram showing potential leak locations. Match fluid characteristics to the corresponding areas on the vehicle.



Once you've identified your leak, be sure to use spill protection measures to prevent more fluid from leaking onto your driveway or roadway. Use absorbent materials, such as sand, pet litter, or even newspaper, and secure any spent absorbent properly in trash bags before disposing of it in your trash bin.

Fluid Type	Location	Color	Feel	Odor	Common Causes
Engine Oil	Beneath engine, near front or middle	Light brown to black	Slick, greasy	Slightly burnt	Work gaskets, oil pan damage, loose drain plug, oil filter issues
Power Steering Fluid	Under front, near driver's side	Reddish or light brown	Oily, slick	Slightly burnt, petroleum-like	Leaking hoses, pump, steering rack seals
Windshield Wiper Fluid	Front bumper, under reservoir	Blue, green, orange, or pink	Thin, watery	Slightly sweet, alcohol-like	Cracked reservoir, loose hoses, damaged pump
Brake Fluid	Near wheels, under master cylinder	Clear/light yellow (new), dark brown (old)	Slick, less oily than engine oil	Slightly sharp, chemical-like	Worn brake lines, leaking calipers, master cylinder failure
Fuel	Near rear of vehicle, under engine	Clear or light yellow	Thin, evaporates quickly	Strong gasoline smell	Loose fuel lines, fuel tanks, cracks, injector leaks
Transmission Fluid	Center/front, near transmission pan	Red (new) or dark brown (old)	Thick, oily	Slightly burnt	Work gaskets, loose pan bolts, damaged seals
Coolant (Antifreeze)	Under radiator, engine bay, heater core	Green, orange, pink, or yellow	Slimy	Sweet	Leaking radiator, damaged hoses, water pump failure
Rear Differential	Between the rear wheels of a rear-wheel drive vehicle	Golden yellow (new) or dark brown or black (old)	Thick, viscous	Burnt smell	Worn seals or gaskets, loose bolts or plugs, damaged housing

This material is meant to provide guidance only. If you need additional assistance, reach out to your auto stores or local mechanic. HDOT is not liable for any issues that may occur while you fix your leaks.



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