

Why Do Car Leaks Matter?

When your car leaks oil and other fluids, it is often a sign of a larger problem. If you ignore leaks, they can lead to major engine damage and more expensive repairs.

Oil and other vehicle fluids are toxic and have negative impacts on the health of ecosystems, wildlife, and people. Vehicles drip an estimated 7 million quarts of motor oil into the Puget Sound watershed each year.



Shops in Renton that offer repairs and free leak inspection:

- **Meister Werks European and & Import**
618 Park Ave. N, 425-254-0627
- **Jeff's Auto Repair**
505 Park Ave. N, 425-226-5056
- **Renton Transmission**
4233 NE Sunset Blvd. #2, 425-235-0101
- **Gary's Quick Lube**
4233 NE Sunset Blvd., 425-235-8228
- **Roy Brown's Auto Service**
414 Monroe Ave. NE, 425-255-4966
- **Meineke Car Care**
64 Logan Ave. S, 425-255-8802
- **Mathewson's Automotive & Tire**
271 Rainier Ave. N, 425-226-2965
- **Beetlesmith's Valley Auto Service**
4096 E Valley Rd., 425-251-8787
- **King's Transmission**
10909 SE Petrovitsky Rd., 425-272-0249

Contact Us

For more information about car leaks, visit Don't Drip & Drive at fixcarleaks.org.

If you have additional questions, contact the King County Hazardous Waste Management Program at 206-296-4692.



**Don't Drip
& Drive
Fix That Leak!**

**Shift
Green**



How Common Are Leaks?

The Don't Drip and Drive program has tested thousands of cars in the Puget Sound region. They found that about 10% of cars have leaks that cause dripping. These leaks were found in both new and old cars.

What Causes Oil Leaks?


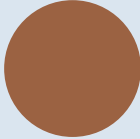
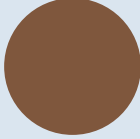



Oil leaks come from many different places. Common sources include:

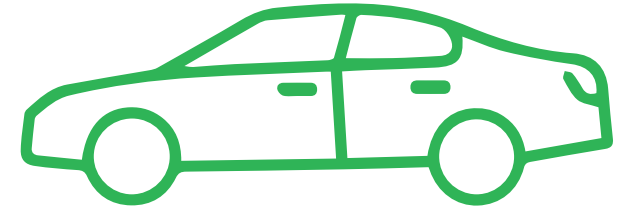
- A worn out oil filter
- A loose or worn oil drain plug
- A missing, loose, or broken oil filler cap
- Valve gasket seal failure
- Physical damage to the oil pan
- An overfilled crankcase



How Do I Know What's Leaking?

Contact a local mechanic for professional leak evaluation and repair. For self-identification and repair, park your car over a large white piece of paper after getting it to operating temperature. Leave the car in place overnight, then use this guide to identify the location and type of leak.

-  **Engine Oil**
Light brown to black, very greasy and slick, under front half of car
-  **Transmission Fluid**
Reddish and thin or brown and thick, middle and front of car
-  **Power Steering Fluid**
Amber or reddish or light brown and thin, very front of vehicle
-  **Brake Fluid**
Clear to brown, slightly yellow and slick, often appears near a wheel
-  **Coolant (Antifreeze)**
Yellow, green or pink, greasy and slimy, front-most part of car
-  **Water**
Clear and thin, under front of car, condensation from air conditioning



**Front/
Engine**

Engine Oil
Transmission fluid

Power steering fluid

Coolant (antifreeze)

**Near
Wheels**

Brake fluid



**Rear/
Exhaust**

Fuel
Water (A/C)

How Much Does It Cost To Repair Leaks?

Car leak repairs can range from \$50 to several thousands of dollars, depending on the location and type of leak. The most common type of leak is a leaking valve cover gasket, which is typically inexpensive to fix.

See the back of this brochure for information about shops in Renton that offer repairs and free leak inspection.



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