

Don't Drip & Drive



Identifying Common Car Leaks

Car leaks often can be identified by observing the color, texture, and location of the fluid.

1. Carefully place the reusable "Drip Test Sheet" under your car.
2. Leave the car in place for a few hours or even better, overnight.
3. If you see drips, use the guide chart to identify the type of leak.
4. Take note of the color, texture, and location in order to properly identify it.
5. Use the 'leaks guide chart' to find out what your results mean
6. Wipe off the fluid(s) and throw the rag or tissue in the trash
7. Contact your mechanic for further evaluation

What's leaking under my car?

Here are six fluids that are likely to drip from your car, and how to recognize them.



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 towards the 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 (Anti-freeze)

Yellow, green, or pink, greasy and slimy, front-most part of car, near radiator or under the engine



Water

Clear and thin, under front of car - condensation from air-conditioning system



Seattle
Public
Utilities

For more information
go to: www.fixcarleaks.org

Puget Sound
Starts Here.org