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Different Car Fluids That Might Leak From Your Car

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Some leaks are more problematic than others, which is why it's important to get a car inspection before buying a used vehicle. Here are six fluids you might see leaking.

Oil

When you see black liquid coming from your car, it is probably engine oil. You can usually fill your car back up with oil and fix the leak as soon as possible, but frequent oil leaks can indicate a much bigger problem. Take your car to a trusted mechanic if you notice oil leaking frequently.

Coolant

It isn't uncommon for used cars to leak green coolant. While you're out of the car, you can probably fill up the coolant temporarily to fix this leak. Keep an eye out for this type of leak, as a major leak can lead to larger problems. In the best case, there is a crack in the coolant reservoir, but in the worst case, there is a problem with the radiator.

Water

There's a good chance that whatever is coming out of your car is just water, especially if the air conditioner has been running. If the air conditioner hasn't been running, check by smell or feel to determine if it's water.



Brake Fluid

You'll see brake fluid leakage usually near the tires or directly under the brake pedal, regardless of color, ranging from brown to clear. It happens mainly in older cars but you should still pay attention if you own a newer vehicle.

Power Steering Fluid

The color of the power steering fluid range from orange to light brown, and they are usually thin. You will see the difference between brake fluid or oil in its viscosity. In the event of a leak in the power steering fluid, there is a serious problem with the steering, which needs to be corrected immediately. It could cost much more to replace the system than the average used car is worth to replace it.

Transmission Fluid

Almost always, red liquid is transmission fluid. If you don't know how to work on an automatic transmission, you should get this checked out immediately. It might just be a leaky pan, but it could also be a transmission problem. The sooner you get it fixed, the lower the cost will be.