

RESPONSIBLE CAR WASHING

Minimize your environmental impact. Use a commercial car wash.



Soaps, oils, greases, grime, and heavy metals from vehicles wash down storm drains.

Storm drains flow directly into our rivers, streams, and lakes.

Soap phosphates cause excessive algae growth and reduce oxygen levels, harming aquatic life.

Soap surfactants damage fish gills and kill their eggs.



Don't wash your car in your driveway or on the road.



- An average homeowner uses 116 gallons of water to wash a car.
- Homeowners often let soapy water flow into untreated storm drains.
- A homeowner should wash their car on the lawn as permitted so the ground can filter wastewater naturally.
- Car washes use 60% less water than homeowners.
- Car washes can filter and reuse water at each facility.
- Car washes connect directly to the sanitary sewer system for proper treatment of wastewater.

Thank you for keeping our waters clean!
Visit mywatersheds.org for more pollution prevention tips.

