

Storm Water Pollution Prevention:

Cleaning your car and driveway

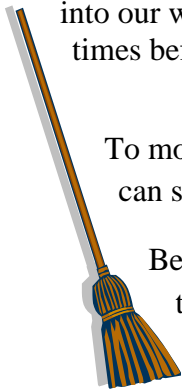
Soap and oily grit aren't good for the animals in the river, and they aren't good for us when we use the river water for swimming or drinking.

Dirty water containing soap, detergents, gasoline, heavy metals from rust, metals and other elements from brake linings, rubber, benzene and chromium, residue from exhaust fumes, and motor oils can wash off cars and flow directly to storm drains and into the nearest creek or stream where it can harm water quality and wildlife.



Small concentrations of detergents in streams can kill fish and their eggs, as well as inhibit their ability to reproduce. Detergents can also destroy the natural protections fish have against bacteria and parasites and can severely damage a fish's gills. The phosphates from soap can also cause excess algae to grow in our waterways. Excessive algae growth makes water cloudy, green, unattractive, smelly, and unhealthy for swimming, boating, fishing, or drinking.

The **best** way to minimize the environmental effects of washing your car is to use a commercial carwash facility. Commercial carwash facilities are required to treat their wash water discharge before releasing it to the sanitary sewer system where the water is treated prior to release back into our water sources. Some facilities even recycle their wash water—reusing it several times before sending it to the sanitary sewer and water treatment facilities.



To more environmentally wash your vehicle at home, select a site where the wash water can soak into grass, gravel, or be diverted to nearby landscaping.

Be sure to **sweep** driveways, patios, and sidewalks rather than hosing them down into the gutters and storm drains. Put lawn clippings in a compost pile or garbage can.

**Report Illegal Discharges to the
Storm Drain System Supervisor**

801-785-2941

12 STEP STORM DRAIN AWARENESS PROGRAM

