



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CAR WASHING METHODS



Changing the way you wash your car can help protect our natural environment. Outdoor car washing can result in harmful pollutants from soap and cleaners entering the storm system. Our storm system flows directly to critical natural habitats. These pollutants degrade the water quality of our streams and endanger the wildlife that lives in or near the streams.

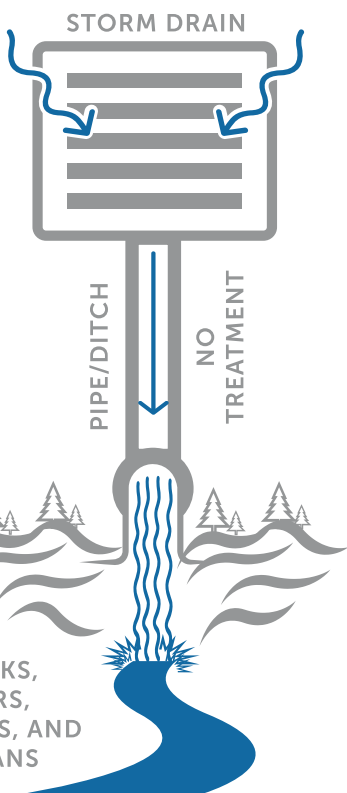
Washing your car on the street or in your driveway causes wash wastewater to flow into the storm drain system.



Use a commercial car wash. Commercial car washes are required to send all their wash water to sanitary sewers for treatment and recycle most of the water. Most commercial car washes use 60% less water in the entire washing process compared to rinsing your car at home.

Water collected by a storm drain **IS NOT TREATED** and goes directly into our natural environment.

If a commercial car wash isn't an option, wash cars on an area that absorbs water, such as gravel, grass, or loose soil. Be sure to use biodegradable, non-toxic cleaners. Diverting any water that may enter the storm system is easy! Use items you already own (boxes, towels, etc.) to keep the flow of water away from storm drains.



Avoid using soap, instead, try using only water or a waterless car wash product that can be applied and wiped off with a cloth, leaving the storm drains clear of potential pollutants. If you need soap, be sure to use chlorine-free and phosphate-free soap, or use biodegradable soap.

Only wash the exterior of your car. Cleaning the engine bay, truck cargo area, mounted equipment, or the undercarriage of your vehicle can lead to harmful pollutants entering the storm system.



IN CASE OF SPILL:

If car wash wastewater does enter the storm system, we want to know! Report spills to the Spill Hotline by calling **509.574.2300**.

