



Stormwater Management Program

TIPS FOR CAR WASHING



Washing cars creates and discharges numerous pollutants that impact the environment and our health. Please follow these pollution prevention tips.

- 1. Car Wash Location:** Use established wash area, where runoff is properly managed,
 - Wash vehicles over pervious surfaces (i.e. lawns & gravel areas), where permissible by local rules and regulations.
 - Never wash vehicles in a public right of way (i.e. street or sidewalk).
 - Never wash vehicles over a storm drain inlet, or within 25' of an inlet that is immediately down gradient of wash site.
 - Don't let car wash water flow into a storm drain.
 - Conduct engine degreasing only at a licensed facility.
 - Wash floor mats in a contained area or on a lawn.
- 2. Pre-wash activities:**
 - ✓ Sweep up all sediment & debris in the area prior to washing vehicles and dispose into a trash can.
 - ✓ If a drain inlet exists within 25' of the wash area, then place gravel bags or other blocking devices in front of the inlet to prevent wash water from entering at this location. Remove when done.
 - ✓ Shake floor mats into trashcan or vacuum to clean. Do not shake over ground.
- 3. Waste disposal:** Properly dispose of all waste (trash, recyclables, sediment and etcetera).



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4. Use non-toxic / biodegrade-able cleaning agents. Note, both can have negative effects on the environment, so read labels. Use:

- Aqueous cleaning solutions instead of solvents, or use
- Vegetable & citrus-based products, or
- Only water without soap, detergents or chemicals, or
- Car care products that don't contain dyes & phenols, or
- Mix equal amounts of water & vinegar in a spray bottle to clean glass surfaces/ remove tar/ bugs.

5. Water Conservation:

- ✓ Use a spray nozzle or rinse bucket to conserve water and minimize wastewater.
- ✓ Use automatic shut off.
- ✓ Never leave the hose running.

6. Avoid hose-off degreasers.

- Instead, brush off loose debris & use damp rags to wipe down.
- Use dry cleaning methods for cleaning parts.
- If using cleaners (i.e. acid based wheel cleaners) use a rag to wipe them on & off, do not rinse off.

7. Dispose of excess wash water into the sanitary sewer system (i.e. via sink, or toilet) or onto a landscaped area

8. Post Car Wash Activities.

- ✓ Sweep the entire site & any impervious surfaces that received wash water runoff. Dispose of all sediment and debris into a trash can.
- ✓ Sweep or wet vacuum any remaining standing wash water into a landscaped area or into the sanitary sewer system.
- ✓ Collect and dispose of all trash and recyclables properly.



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