

CAR WASHING

While washing your car, water collects soap, detergents, residues from exhaust fumes, and gasoline and motor oils. Eventually, the water washes off the car and onto the pavement collecting additional debris and pollutants there, before finally flowing down to the nearest storm drain. Unlike the water that comes out of a faucet in your home or at work – which is treated - the water that goes into the storm drains flows directly to the lakes and streams near you with everything it has collected along the way!

HELPFUL MEASURES

USE WATER FRIENDLY SOAPS

Many commercial grade soaps contain non-biodegradable detergents and acids. If you wash your car at home, try buying soaps that are labeled "non-toxic", "phosphate-free", or "biodegradable". The safest products for the environment are vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps.

Car Soap Recipe

Try this recipe for water friendly car soap:

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil-based liquid soap (such as Dr. Bronner's)
- 1 gallon of warm water

PREVENT THE WATER FROM REACHING THE STORM DRAIN

Minimize the amount of water or soapy rinse water running into a storm drain by washing your car on the lawn instead of the driveway. This will not only give your lawn a watering, but the grass and soil will naturally filter out some of the harmful chemicals or fluids. Remember, whenever possible shut off or kink the hose to reduce wasting water.