

Used together, the practices covered here will make a tremendous difference! But this is not all you can do - more helpful tips are available in additional brochures.

This information is brought to you by your good neighbor and steward...

HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO

- Hold your car wash at designated site
- Divert washwater from storm drains to grassy areas
- Use biodegradable cleaners
- Use "waterless" cleaners
- Hold your car wash at a commercial car wash facility

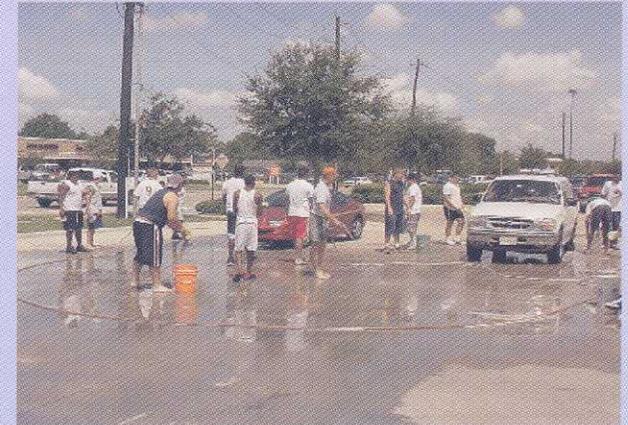


For more information, call the Regional Environmental Office at 444-3009.

Thank you for your help in maintaining clean water. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated by local wildlife, marine life, plant life, and your friends and neighbors, as well as the next generation!

Make Your Next Car Wash "Environmentally Smart"

Raise money *and* protect the Hampton Roads Waterways



WPNSTA Yorktown
NAVSTA Norfolk
NAS Oceana
NAVPHIBASE Little Creek

The Problem:

Holding a car wash is a popular way to raise funds for various organizations but all too often, while they help the organization, such car washes hurt the environment. That's because they are often held in public parking lots that drain into the storm water system, which leads directly into nearby bays, lakes and rivers. Soap suds, oil, grease, and other contaminants are washed into the curb and end up polluting local waterways. Putting these materials into the storm drain is the same as dumping them directly into the local waterways, or any nearby streams or wetlands.

Dirt, grime, oil, soap, and other car wash residuals are harmful to fish, wildlife, and plants that grow in and around waterways. Even biodegradable soap causes trouble when it enters a waterway and begins to degrade, using up oxygen needed by fish, plants, and other wildlife. It's important to avoid using cleansers that contain phosphates, chlorine, chlorine bleach, nitrates, and ammonia.

The Solution:

By planning ahead, your car wash fundraiser can be both fun and profitable for your organization, as well as respectful of our local water resources. Installation requirement and additional suggestions on how to conduct an environmentally-friendly car wash are listed below. In all cases, use a flow-control device such as a hand spray with an on/off hose trigger to conserve water.

REQUIREMENT: Hold your car wash at either the designated installation location or at a commercial car wash facility.

Locations have been designated at each installation for fund raising car washes. These sites were selected to limit the environmental impact and to comply with Navy fundraising activity guidance. Contact 444-3009 for your installation's selection.

Commercial car washes have special wash racks that empty into a wastewater collection system. The wash water is treated and purified before being released. As a fundraiser for your group, consider selling coupons or tokens that allow customers to have their cars washed at a commercial car wash. The car wash company may even give your group a special rate and/or help publicize your fundraising event.

Suggestion #1: Divert soapy water to grassy area

Use hay bales or sandbags to divert washwater runoff to a planted bed or landscaped area where the roots and soil can filter out contaminants before they pollute groundwater. Hay bales can also double as comfortable resting places for your patrons to sit while you work on their vehicle. Place a drain cover or a vinyl rug weighted down with sandbags over nearby storm drains to plug them and prevent pollutants from entering local waterways.

Suggestion #2: Use biodegradable cleaners

There are commercially available cleaners that are designated as biodegradable. These products will help to minimize the environmental impacts and can be found at most automotive stores.

Suggestion #3: Use "waterless" cleaners

Commercially available waterless cleaners are a good alternative and can be located by doing an Internet search on "waterless car wash."