

Wash Your Car, Not the Watershed



Original design produced by the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Seattle and Tacoma.

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

Water collected by a storm drain **IS NOT TREATED** and goes directly into our streams, ponds, and lakes.

Car washing waste water can contain:

- **soap** (ALL soaps, even biodegradable ones, can harm fish)
- **oil, grease, grime**
- **antifreeze**
- **heavy metals**
- **other pollutants**

TOP 2 ALTERNATIVE CAR WASHING METHODS:

1. **Use a commercial car wash ***

Commercial car washes send all their wash water to sanitary sewers for treatment and recycle most of the water.

2. **Wash your car on the lawn or a graveled area**

The water will soak into the soil to act as a natural filter, capturing the material from your car.

*This method is best for maintaining water quality.

DUMP NO WASTE



DRAINS TO STREAM

CAR WASHING FACTS

The best place to wash your car is at a **commercial car wash**.

The average driveway car wash uses a total of **116 gallons** of water.

The average commercial car wash uses **60% less water** than a simple home wash.

ALL soaps & detergents, even biodegradable ones are **toxic** to fish & other aquatic life.

THE LAW

Letting your car wash water go into a storm drain not only pollutes your lake and creek, it's against the law too (Kirkland Municipal Code Chapter 15.52).

Although we try to encourage behavior change through education first, you may face fines or other penalties for repeat offenses.

QUESTIONS?

Call **Kirkland Public Works** at (425)587-3800 for more information.