

Keep Car Wash Pollution out of the Storm Drain



The Car is Clean but what about the Bay?

Did you know there are approximately 700,000 registered vehicles in San Mateo County? Practicing good car care helps protect our creeks, the Pacific Ocean, and the San Francisco Bay.

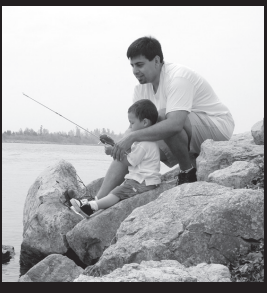
How? Storm drains located on our roadways lead directly into local waterways. When motor fluids or dirty water from washing our cars are washed or dumped into the storm drain, it pollutes our water.

What can you do? Follow the simple tips on the back of this card for a clean vehicle that also protects our creeks, ocean, and bay.



Practice Good Car Care

Environmental Problems with Washing Your Car at Home. When you wash your car in the driveway or street, contaminants such as oil, grease, and metals (copper, nickel and zinc) as well as the dirt and soap can flow into storm drains, which discharge directly into our local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and Pacific Ocean, polluting our environment.



The best option. Taking your car to a commercial car wash or spray booth is the best option as all of the dirty water is sent to a wastewater treatment plant. Not only do you reduce pollution, you will save water. A commercial car

wash uses less water than you would at home. If you get your car washed at a fundraiser, make sure they are properly handling the washwater and not letting it go to the storm drain.

Wash your vehicle on the grass or gravel.

If you wash your car or truck at home, wash it where the wash water can soak into grass, gravel or be diverted to nearby landscaping, away from the street and storm drains. Use rags to wipe brake dust off of wheels before washing

Minimize Cleaners. Reduce the amount of soap used. Wash your car with plain water, and use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water. Use soaps, cleaners and detergents that are labeled phosphate free or biodegradable. Remember, any soap, even biodegradable, is not allowed to go into the storm drain. Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you are done.

Find out more at www.flowstobay.org/autocare



SAN MATEO COUNTYWIDE
Water Pollution Prevention Program
Clean Water. Healthy Community. www.flowstobay.org