

***Other
recommendations for
pollution prevention:***

If you choose a site that drains into a street, block off the storm drain with sandbags or wet towels and divert the dirty water, onto grass, gravel or an area where the water can pool and evaporate throughout the day.

Wring sponges and wash rags into buckets, not onto the ground.

Clean up the site after the event. Have volunteers walk the perimeter of the site location picking up any trash and debris and dispose of it properly.

Shake car mats into a trash can or vacuum them off. Do not shake dirt from car mats directly onto the ground.

Make sure no car wash water goes into storm drains, ditches or waterways.

Work with the City staff to obtain vacuums, sand bags, etc., which will remove excess water and block off storm drains.

Contact Steve Bebee at 360.279.4764 for more information, any questions, or to obtain a Car Wash Kit.



City of Oak Harbor

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City of Oak Harbor

**STORMWATER
DISCHARGE &
CAR WASH
FUNDRAISERS**



STORMWATER DISCHARGE & CAR WASH FUNDRAISERS

During a car wash, dirty water containing soap and detergents, residues from exhaust fumes, gasoline and motor oils washes off the cars, flows off the pavement and into nearby storm drains (usually openings in the curb/gutter).

Unlike the water we use in our homes and businesses which is treated at wastewater treatment plants, the water that goes into storm drains flows directly into rivers, bays, oceans and lakes without any kind of treatment.

Alone, one car wash fundraiser event will create little, adverse environmental impact. But, collectively, car wash fundraiser events contribute significant amounts of water pollution.

To help ensure your compliance with municipal regulations, we suggest that you follow the "Good Housekeeping Practices" listed below for an environmentally successful car wash fundraising event.

Using these practices, you will meet two equally important goals: (1) Raise a great deal of money for your organization and, (2) Minimize the amount of soapy wash water that enters any storm drain.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES FOR CAR WASH FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Good Housekeeping Practice #1

Get your environmentally friendly car wash kit, which includes a catch basin insert, pump, hoses and extension cords from the City of Oak Harbor by contacting Steve Bebee at 360.279.4764.

Good Housekeeping Practice #2

Before beginning your car wash, remove all trash and debris from the car washing area.

Good Housekeeping Practice #3

Use only soaps, cleaners, or detergents labeled "non-toxic", "phosphate free", or "biodegradable". The safest products for the environment are vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps.

Good Housekeeping Practice #4

Avoid the use of acid-based wheel cleaners.

Good Housekeeping Practice #5

Minimize the amount of water or soapy wash water running off the car washing area by implementing the following:

Always shut off or kink the hoses when not in use.

Whenever possible, select a site where the cars can be driven onto grass or gravel for washing. Or, select a site where wash water will drain onto grass, gravel, or land-

scaping, or into the sanitary sewer system. This will allow the soapy water to filter through vegetation and soil instead of flowing into a storm drain.

Use a bucket of soapy water to re-soap rags or sponges throughout the wash rather than adding more soap directly to the rag/sponge.

Do not empty buckets of soapy or rinse water into the parking lot, street, gutter, or storm drains. Always empty buckets into the sanitary sewer system (e.g. sinks or toilets).

BE SMART-DO YOUR PART



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