## PROJECT POLLUTION PREVENTION

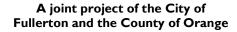
Project Pollution Prevention is a partnership of the County of Orange and the 34 cities of Orange County. Project Pollution Prevention's mission is to eliminate pollution from our water resources by educating business and individuals about what they can do to ensure we leave a legacy of clean water for future generations.

Project Pollution Prevention is part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), a program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency intended to keep our environment safe for everyone by stopping storm water pollution.





CITY OF FULLERTON—
ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE
SERVICES DEPARTMENTS



WANT MORE INFORMATION?
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# WASHING YOUR VEHICLE AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

"THE OCEAN STARTS AT YOUR FRONT DOOR"

A joint project of the City of Fullerton and the County of Orange

## PREVENTING POLLUTION FROM WASHING CARS

Did you know the water that runs off your property and from the streets runs directly to the ocean without treatment? Anything that runs down the gutter will eventually end up on our beaches and in our coastal waters. That's why we have to keep pollutants out of the drain system.

Everyone wants a nice clean car. It's expensive and often inconvenient to take your car to a commercial car wash. Some people just prefer to wash their cars themselves. Your car is a major investment that needs washing and other maintenance.

But automobile washing activities have the potential to contribute to storm drain pollution because road dust washed from vehicles may contain heavy metals and hydrocarbons. Any leaking fluids washed from the car may be carried to the storm drain by the wash water. Detergents used for automobile washing may contain phosphorus and foaming agents, nutrients which contribute to excessive algae growth, choking off oxygen to fish and beneficial plants.

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Preventing dangerous runoff from washing your car is simple. Just doing the things listed below will ensure you protect the environment when you wash your car.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO.....

The following suggestions were developed to give you some ideas on how you can safely wash your car. They're common sense things that don't take a lot of time or cost a lot of money, but can do a lot to prevent water pollution.

- Try to wash your car on the lawn or other surface where wash water can soak in instead of running into the gutter.
- Don't use "hose off" engine degreasers or acid-based wheel cleaners.
- When possible, take your car to a commercial car wash that recycles wash water.

- Turn off the water if you're not actively washing the car. Don't waste water by letting it run into the street.
- Try to use car detergents and cleaners labeled "bio-degradable", "non-toxic", or "phosphate-free".
- Be sure to use only as much detergent as necessary to clean your car. Don't mix too much with wash water.
- Pour your bucket of dirty wash water into a sink or other fixture that drains to the sanitary sewer system. Never pour dirty water into the gutter.

FOR MORE INFOMRATION ABOUT STORM DRAIN PROTECTION OR ADDITIONAL BROCHURES, CALL (714) 738-6860

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