

## **CLEAN WATERWAYS START WITH YOU**

Our daily activities greatly affect the health of our waterways. Planning a car wash? This card contains tips on how your organization can raise funds while helping to keep pollutants out of our waterways.

### **CAN A CAR WASH POLLUTE?**

When you wash cars on the street, driveway, or in a parking lot, the water cannot be absorbed by these hard surfaces. As the water runs off the vehicle, it takes with it the soap and picks up dirt, trash, oil, grease, fertilizers, and other pollutants. These pollutants flow into the storm drain system, where the water is not treated but instead empties directly into our local waterways. Stormwater pollution affects drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.



# REMEMBER THESE TIPS WHEN YOU WASH FOR TIPS



Hold your event at a commercial car wash. Ask the business to donate the profits to your fundraiser.



Sell commercial car wash coupons as a fundraiser instead of actually washing cars.



Use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners only.



Minimize water usage. Use a hose nozzle with flow restrictions to minimize water volume.



Wash on an area that absorbs water, such as gravel or grass.



Place plastic sheeting and then a heavy rubber mat over the storm drain grate to prevent wash water from entering the storm drain system.



Seal off storm drain openings along the curb with a sheet of heavy plastic topped with sand bags or other weights.



Use sandbags, rolled towels, hoses, or other materials to divert the runoff to an area that absorbs water, such as gravel or grass.



Empty wash buckets into sinks, toilets or onto a grassy area.



Wring sponges and rags into a bucket, not onto the ground.

Learn more at [askHRgreen.org](https://askHRgreen.org)



[askHRgreen](https://askHRgreen.org)



[askHRgreen.org](https://askHRgreen.org)