

TROUBLE IN THE BUBBLES

Soaps labeled “biodegradable,” “environmentally safe” and “low phosphate” still might be hazardous to creatures and fish living in our waters. Research has shown that even the smallest amount of soap can cause fish to absorb other pollutants in the water.

Soap and water loosen oil and grime - but they also pick up and hold onto all sorts of particles. Car wash water can contain grease, elements from brake linings, rust and trace amounts of benzene, chromium and other nasty things which are toxic to fish and other animals.

FISH-FRIENDLY CAR WASH TIPS

Whether you wash your car at home or at a fundraiser car wash, if soapy wash water gets into the City's storm drainage system it is a violation of the City's “National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System” (NPDES) Permit and Poulsbo Municipal Code 13.18.

Violations can result in fines, but whenever possible, we want to provide education and technical support to our citizens and the business sponsors of fundraiser car washes instead. We want to make you aware of the potential environmental impacts of car washing and suggest alternatives, such as:

- *Park the car on grass or an area where the water can filter into the ground and not run off to the storm drain. If the driveway drains to an area where it can infiltrate, that works too.*
- *Divert the drainage away from the storm drain.*
- *Use a hose with a shut-off valve to reduce possible runoff from the grassy area.*

• *Dump your soapy water out in the sink or on an area where it will filter into the ground.*

• *If you don't have a good place at home to wash your car, take it to a commercial car wash where the wash water drains to the sanitary sewer.*

• *Wash cars at a "fish-friendly" fundraiser car wash where the soapy and dirty wash water is managed properly by being collected and discharged into the sanitary sewer system or onto a grassy area and not allowed to enter the storm drain.*

CASH-IN ON COUPONS

Commercial car washes are environmentally friendly because wash water is collected and treated before it is discharged to the bay at the wastewater treatment plant.

In a program sponsored by participating commercial car wash owners and supported by the Education and Outreach staff of Kitsap County Public Works Surface and Stormwater Management Program, your community group can sell coupons good for a basic wash at any participating automatic car wash. These coupons can be sold year round and make great gifts! Best of all, there is no risk. Your group pays a reduced rate (\$4 per coupon) only for the coupons you sell. To get started selling coupons, you must contact the Program Administrator at 360-697-1144 or 206-842-7167. Participating car wash locations for the coupon program are:

Mike's Car Wash & Detail
19774 7th Avenue
Poulsbo

Madison Mike's Car Wash
499 Madison Avenue
Bainbridge Island

Express Car Wash
3082 NW Bucklin Hill Road
Silverdale

Shur Kleen Car Wash
3311 Kitsap Way
Bremerton

Express Car Wash
6301 State Hwy. 303
Bremerton

Olympic Car Wash
2246 Bethel Avenue
Port Orchard

Olympic 10 Minute
Lube & Wash
1445 Olney Avenue
Port Orchard

Sedgwick 76
234 Bravo Terrace
Port Orchard

WATER DISCHARGE CAN BE COSTLY

Think twice before you allow anything to go into the gutter or storm drain. Storm drains do not go to the sanitary sewer system; they flow directly into streams, creeks, wetlands, bays, and then to Puget Sound.

If you are found to be discharging pollutants, or are allowing the discharge of pollutants from your property, into the City's storm drainage system, you may be subject to fines and penalties.

For more information about managing water entering storm drains, please call us at (360)779-4078.



FUNDRAISER CAR WASHES

Car washes are popular fundraisers for worthwhile causes; however, runoff from car wash fundraisers, if not properly managed, harms the environment and lowers the water quality of our waterways.

Most storm drains in the City of Poulsbo flow into creeks, Liberty Bay, and Nesika Bay and on into Puget Sound, so car wash water that flows into the storm drains adds pollutants to these waterways.

You can help preserve wildlife, fish, and their habitats AND still have a successful fundraiser car wash.

Just be sure to hold your fundraiser car wash at a location where the wash water runoff can be prevented from entering the storm drain.

The wash water runoff must be either directed entirely to a grassy area or collected and discharged into the sanitary sewer.

The property owner of the car wash location is responsible for insuring that there is no discharge of wash water runoff into the storm drain. If the property owner does not provide the necessary equipment to direct the wash water runoff to the sanitary sewer then the fundraiser group must do so. The fundraiser group will need to work with the property owner to be sure that the water can be managed properly.

The City can provide technical assistance to help determine if a location is suitable for a fundraiser car wash and provide information on the necessary equipment and installation procedures for pumping the wash water runoff to the sanitary sewer.

REMEMBER.....

- Wash your car on a grassy area, at a commercial car wash, or a "fish-friendly" fundraiser car wash that properly manages the wash water
- What we do on land affects the quality of our waterways
- Many small sources of pollution add up to cause big water quality problems

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OR SUSPICIOUS DISCHARGES



CONTACT Us



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CITY OF POULSBO



CAR WASHING & OUR WATERWAYS



Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
Poulsbo Municipal Code 13.18
Ordinance 2009-03