PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

Fundraising Car Washes

Car washes have long been a favorite fundraiser for scout troops, schools and other non-profit groups. But in the last few years we have become aware of the negative impact car washes have on the environment. Dirty water containing soaps, detergent, residue from exhaust fumes, gasoline and motor oil washes off the cars and directly into the storm drain, and then into the Bay. Collectively, car wash events can account for some serious pollution.

Choosing a site

It is important to choose a site for your car wash where wastewater can be disposed of properly. Some popular sites, such as service stations and parking lots, usually do not have the necessary connections to the ***sanitary sewer system***.

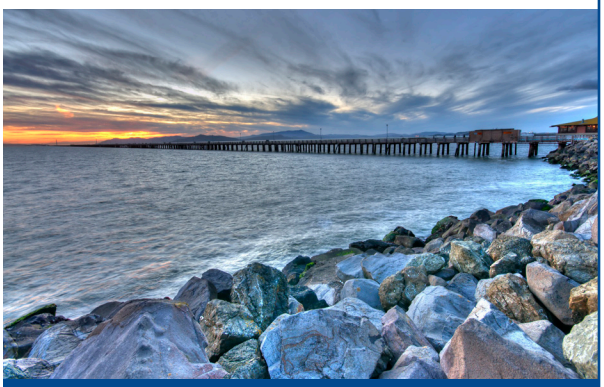
Here are some options:

- Find a sponsor for your car wash that uses a closed-loop washing system — one that recycles its water.
- Ask a local commercial car wash to donate part of their day's receipts or see if they will allow you to sell a special wash ticket.
- Hold your car wash at an industrial or commercial site that has a designated vehicle wash area.
- Rent a mobile washing system that can contain the water on the site. The collected water must be disposed of properly into the sanitary sewer, and not into a ***stormdrain***.
- Contact your city's local clean water program to see how you can set up an area to drain wash water to the sewer.

Keep car wash water OUT of storm drains.

Pouring cleaning fluids or soapy wash water from auto activities into the gutters or storm drains will damage sensitive habitats and kill wildlife. Water flowing into storm drains travels directly to local creeks and then to San Francisco Bay. It does not go to a water treatment plant first.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.



cleanwater PROGRAM

Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay

cleanwaterprogram.org

What about biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products?

These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled *"non-toxic"* and *"biodegradable."*

- *"Non-toxic"* means the product is not toxic to the user.
- *"Biodegradable"* means the product will eventually break down. Biodegradable products can still harm aquatic wildlife since they need time to break down before they are safe. When biodegradable products enter a creek, they are generally still toxic and can harm wildlife and plants.

What about leftover or unwanted cleaning products?

Leftover cleaning products should be properly disposed of. Contact the Hazardous Waste agency for your area for more information. See phone numbers at right.

KEY DEFINITIONS

The ***Storm Drain System*** was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The ***Sanitary Sewer System*** collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

cleanwater PROGRAM

cleanwaterprogram.org

Having clean and healthy waterways is important to our daily lives. That's why the Clean Water Program helps residents and businesses better understand what role each one of us plays in protecting local creeks, wetlands and the Bay. The Program fosters an appreciation of the local environment, inspiring people to do their part to prevent water pollution during everyday activities. The Program's free publications and friendly, knowledgeable staff make doing the right thing easy and rewarding.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the **Clean Water Program** at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.

For More Help

For advice and approval on wastewater disposal to the sanitary sewer system, contact:

Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland or Piedmont
East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)..... (510) 287-1651

Castro Valley
Castro Valley Sanitary District .. (510) 537-0757

Cities of Dublin or Pleasanton
Dublin-San Ramon Services District..... (925) 828-0515

Cities of Fremont, Newark or Union City
Union Sanitary District ..... (510) 477-7500

City of Hayward
City of Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900

City of Livermore
City of Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100

Cities of San Lorenzo, unincorporated portions of San Leandro and Hayward
Oro Loma Sanitary District ..... (510) 481-6971

City of San Leandro
City of San Leandro..... (510) 577-3401

Local Stormwater Agencies

For advice on avoiding disposal to the storm drain system, contact:

Alameda.....(510) 747-7930
Albany .....(510) 528-5770
Berkeley.....(510) 981-7460
Dublin .....(925) 833-6650
Emeryville .....(510) 596-3728
Fremont .....(510) 494-4570
Hayward .....(510) 881-7900
Livermore .....(925) 960-8100
Newark .....(510) 578-4286
Oakland .....(510) 238-6544
Piedmont.....(510) 420-3050
Pleasanton .....(925) 931-5511
San Leandro.....(510) 577-3401
Unincorporated Alameda County.....(510) 567-6700
Union City.....(510) 675-5301
Clean Water Program.....(510) 670-5543

Local Hazardous Waste Agencies

Alameda County Environmental Health .....(510) 567-6780
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Emeryville, Newark, Piedmont, San Lorenzo, and Sunol.)
Berkeley Toxics .....(510) 981-7460
Fremont Fire .....(510) 494-4213
Hayward Fire .....(510) 583-4910
Livermore-Pleasanton Fire .....(925) 454-2362
Oakland Fire .....(510) 238-3927
San Leandro.....(510) 577-3401
Union City.....(510) 675-5358

Mar 2012