



Ways to Wash Your Car:

- Use a car wash! Commercial car washes treat and recycle the water.
- Wash Your Car on an unpaved surface so water will absorb into the soil instead of running into a storm drain.
- Use biodegradable soap. It's less harmful on the environment, and on your car!



For more information on water quality and stormwater management go to:

www.stormwaterSMART.org

or contact

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PIEDMONT TRIAD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Stormwater SMART Member Governments: Davidson County, Randolph County, Rockingham County, Archdale, Asheboro, Burlington, Elon, Gibsonville, Graham, Green Level, Haw River, High Point, Lexington, Mebane, Oak Ridge, Summerfield, Randleman, Reidsville, Thomasville & Trinity.

Keep Your Car and Our Water Clean

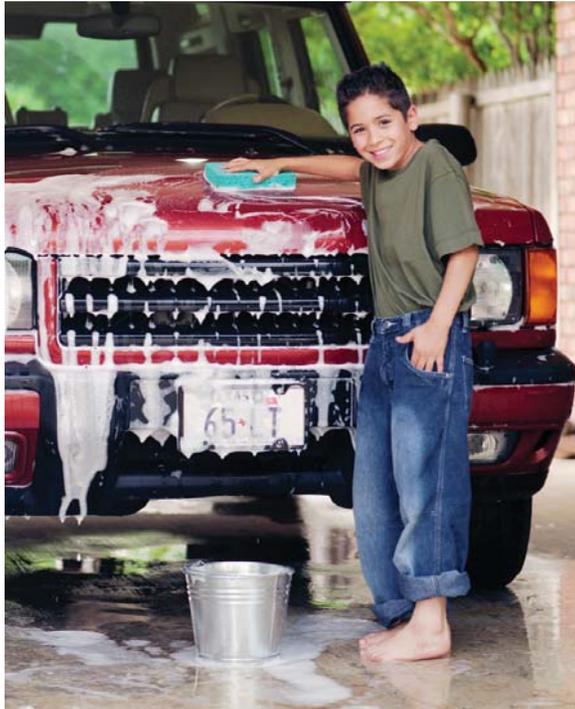


Please protect our waters by washing your car responsibly!



The Problem?

When you add the stuff you use to wash your car with the crud you wash off your car, you're creating a recipe for a water quality disaster!



The grime we wash off our cars contains major pollutants including oil and grease, and heavy metals. If water drains onto grassy, or “permeable” surfaces, good bacteria break down the pollutants, minimizing environmental impacts.

Detergents are harmful?

Surfactants:

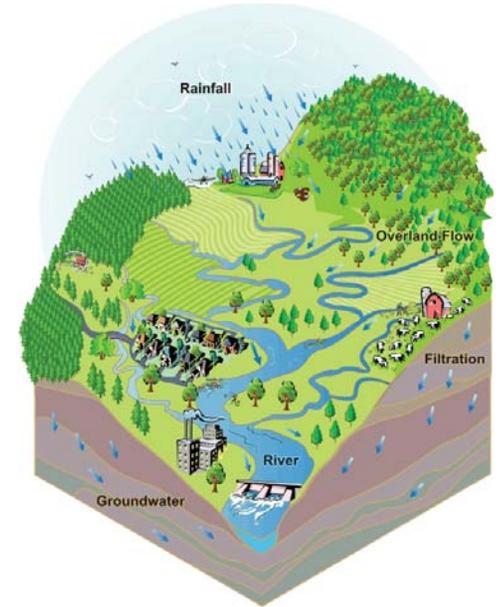
Detergents contain surfactants which are found in all sorts of products including shampoo and conditioner, herbicides, paints and fabric softener. Surfactants remove the residue from soap and other products leaving it squeaky clean.

While this is good for washing your hair, your car, or your clothes, surfactants can also wash the slime off fish. That slime is actually protects them from harmful bacteria and parasites. It also helps protect them from absorbing other dangerous pollutants.

Nutrients:

Many detergents contain phosphorous, a nutrient that's having a huge impact on many of our waterways. Nutrients lead to algal blooms which use oxygen to break down. This cause low levels of oxygen in the lake. Just like us, fish and other aquatic organisms need oxygen to survive.

As algae breaks down, it leaves a lot of residue behind. This residue is slowing filling in our waterbodies. This process is known as eutrophication. Although it occurs naturally, we've speeded up the process exponentially. We refer to this as “cultural eutrophication.”



A watershed is an area of land that drains to a specific site. Everything that happens upstream affects water quality downstream. Keep our waters clean by washing your car on a grassy surface, use biodegradable soaps, or take your car to the car wash!

Did You Know?

Almost two-thirds of water pollution comes from things like motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste, and detergents? Help protect our waters by doing your part to prevent stormwater pollution. Be Stormwater SMART!