

Clean Water

At A Glance

Car
Washing

Car Washing

When you wash your car in a driveway, street, or parking lot the dirty water flows into storm drains and winds up in our rivers and streams. The dirty wash water can carry soaps, gasoline, heavy metals, and motor oil into our waterways where it can be dangerous to wildlife and contaminate drinking water sources.

Your every day actions can help! Use these car washing tips to keep pollutants out of our waterways. These should be applied even if cleaning products are labeled "nontoxic" or "biodegradable." These products still have negative effects on waterways when they enter the storm drain.

Car Washing Do's

Take your car to a commercial car wash. They use less water than it takes to wash your car at home, recycle the wash water, and discharge the water to the wastewater treatment plant.

Consider taking your car to a "Fish-Friendly Car Wash" held by local community groups. Community groups coordinate with the City of Springfield to discharge wash water safely to the wastewater treatment plant. It's also a great way to support your favorite community cause.

If you do wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn or direct wash water to a landscaped area where plants can filter out pollutants. If possible, wash your car without soap and if you must use soap, use it sparingly. Use nozzles to help decrease water usage and only wash the outside of the car (avoid washing engines, transmissions, and undercarriages). Keep it simple and avoid using hot water, metal brighteners, chemical degreasers, or cleaners.



Report Water Pollution

Help keep our local rivers healthy and report water pollution. Call the water pollution reporting hotline at 541.726.3694 or email dpw@springfield-or.gov

For more information on how to protect local rivers, go to springfieldstreams.org or email our team at WaterResources@springfield-or.gov

